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VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 18818

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1994 • KISLEV 15, 5755 • II JAMAD 14, 1415

NIS 4.80 (EILAT NIS 4.10)

Rabin: We would support US aid to Syria

HILLEL KUTTLER
DENVER

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin hinted yesterday that Israel would support US economic aid to Syria should a peace treaty be reached. At the same time, he attacked Likud partisans who oppose a US-led observer force on the Golan Heights as part of an agreement. "A treaty without economic assistance is liable to hurt the peace process," Rabin told Israeli journalists aboard his Air Force plane on a flight here from Los Angeles. He refused to confirm that he was referring to Syria, but maintained that US financial assistance has helped secure the Israeli-Egyptian peace. "One-third of the US foreign aid [of \$15 billion annually] is to Israel and Egypt, which strengthens the notion that attacking aid... is liable to harm what's been (Continued on Page 2)



President Ezer Weizman eats a tomato as Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri looks on at Ben-Gurion Airport's Agrexco warehouse yesterday. The first shipment of Jordanian tomato imports was not allowed into the country yesterday after failing to pass a quality check. Story, Page 3

Shohat: No need for a devaluation

JOSE ROSENFELD

IN an attempt to quell feverish speculation over an impending devaluation of the shekel, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat appeared last night on Channel One's *Mabat* to reassure the country that such a move was not in the cards. "I don't think there is a need for a devaluation," Shohat said. Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said concurred.

"In today's economy, which is heating up while unemployment drops, in which consumption is greater than income, and there is a balance of payments deficit, a devaluation would boost inflation — and that is forbidden," he told *Itim* last night.

The combination of last month's high Consumer Price

Index and a shekel exchange rate lagging significantly behind inflation have heightened expectations of a devaluation, as industrialists are insisting that an overvalued shekel is eroding their profitability.

An overvalued shekel makes exports more expensive and, therefore, less competitive abroad, while making imports cheaper than locally produced goods.

The announcement that Shohat would be meeting with business and economic leaders today further stoked rumors the government is planning a dramatic economic move.

But Shohat noted the meeting had been scheduled a week ago, before October's index was announced, and that he holds such meetings periodically.

Shekel hurting business profitability, Page 8

Peres warns: Palestinians in danger of collapse

HAIM SHAPIRO

IF the Palestinians allow more than one authority or tolerate more than one armed force, they are in danger of collapsing, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned last night.

Speaking to the opening session of the biennial conference of Israel's Reform Movement, Peres noted that when Israel was established, David Ben-Gurion — in the face of much opposition — insisted that the various Jewish armed forces be put under one command.

"If [Yasser] Arafat doesn't understand this, he won't be able to continue," Peres said.

He warned that Hamas is doing what similar groups are doing in Egypt — trying to destroy everything that brings progress.

"The Palestinians will have to either control all those who bear arms or they will collapse," Peres said.

He added that there is a feeling that Arafat has lost control over the situation. If that is the case, he said, it's very serious.

Also addressing the conference was Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who came despite haredi pressure not to appear.

Olmert said the only way to exist in Jerusalem was for there to be tolerance among all groups.

Hamas seeks control of services in autonomy

DAN IZENBERG

HAMAS is trying to take control of the civilian services in the autonomy and the PLO is doing nothing to stop it. Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, said yesterday.

Rothschild, addressing a special meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Tel Aviv, said the Palestinian Authority currently lacks \$140 million of its planned budget.

As a result, salaries are not being paid and there are problems in the supply of fuel and food to the Gaza Strip.

"The economic situation in Gaza affects the ability of the PA to manage affairs and helps strengthen Hamas," he said.

He noted that countries which have promised to contribute to the PA will not transfer promised

funding to Palestinian officials, especially police, who have not been approved by Israel. Therefore, the economic difficulties in Gaza will continue unless the PA cooperates with Israel.

Rothschild predicted that the Hamas' political wing would participate in the elections for the Palestinian autonomy. He added that one of the problems in holding elections is that part of the population is not interested in democratic procedures.

He said Israel has demanded that Yasser Arafat treat Hamas as a political rival and deal with it in the political arena, except for its military wing which should be "taken care of." However, Hamas' military wing is marginal compared with Islamic Jihad, which seeks a military solution and hardly has political aims.

Jordan-Israel-Palestinian talks discussed

DAVID MAKOVSKY
AMMAN

ISRAEL and Jordan discussed the possibility of three-way meetings with the Palestinians, but the matter was not finalized, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said yesterday after holding talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hassan Tajal.

The talks were the first working level session since the signing of the peace treaty.

Jordanian Information Minister Jawad Anani said Amman is doing all it can to prevent attacks by Islamic militants against Israeli targets. Intelligence officials recently told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Hamas is planning attacks in Jordan, and to transfer funds to Hamas in Gaza.

Savir also said that Israel's embassy in Amman and Jordan's in Tel Aviv would hopefully

open around December 11.

A Jordanian team is expected to arrive in Tel Aviv within two weeks to search for potential sites. An Israeli team scouted three locations yesterday. One is in the fashionable Abdoun district in western Amman, where the American and British embassies are situated. A second is the near the city's center, where the Jordanian Foreign Ministry is located, and the third is in eastern Amman.

King Hussein greeted Israeli and Jordanian boaters on the Gulf of Akaba, adding a grand finale to the first water ski race

across the border.

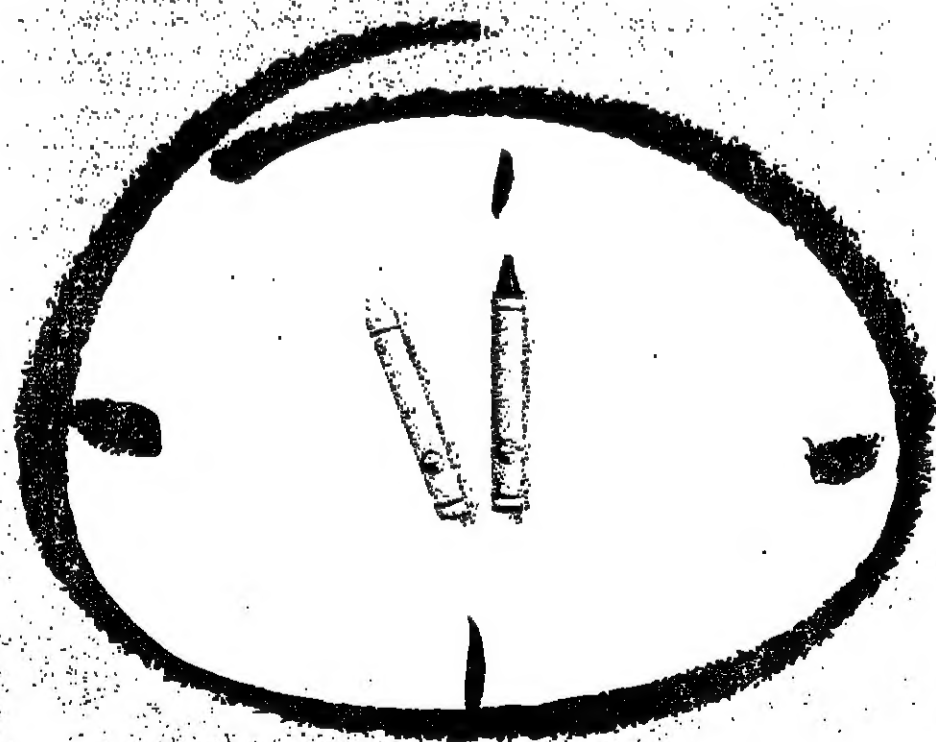
Eight of the 11 boats completed the 100 kilometer race, which took on extra cheer when Hussein came out on his yacht to greet a flotilla of Israelis and Jordanians sailing in the gulf, AP reported.

The Jordanian boaters sang and displayed pictures of Hussein as they made their way to the border, where they met the Israeli boats.

The Jordanian stock exchange, meanwhile, is riding high with investor confidence following the peace treaty with Israel, with volume soaring this week.

"The peace treaty has injected new confidence into the investor mood," one broker told AP. Others said they expect the upward trend to continue.

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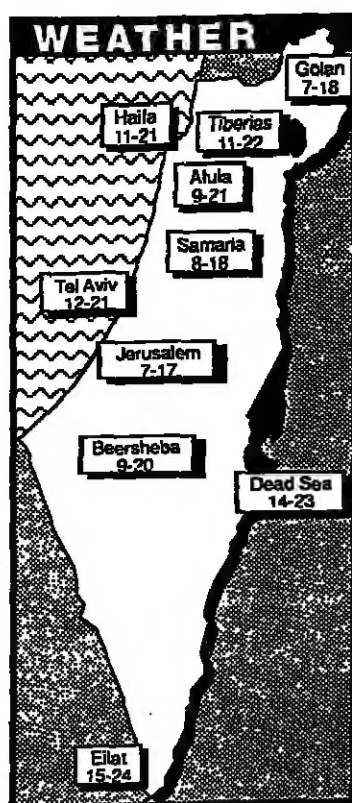
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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	4:02	5:16
Tel Aviv	4:20	5:18
Haifa	4:10	5:15
Beersheba	4:18	5:15
Eilat	4:22	5:22



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AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Temp
Amsterdam	4-10	10-15	cloudy
Berlin	5-11	11-16	cloudy
Bombay	24-30	30-35	clear
Chicago	3-8	8-13	cloudy
Copenhagen	4-9	9-14	cloudy
Frankfurt	5-10	10-15	cloudy
Helsinki	4-9	9-14	cloudy
Hong Kong	24-30	30-35	clear
London	5-10	10-15	cloudy
Los Angeles	15-20	20-25	cloudy
Madrid	10-15	15-20	cloudy
Moscow	5-10	10-15	cloudy
New York	3-8	8-13	cloudy
Paris	5-10	10-15	cloudy
Rome	10-15	15-20	cloudy
Sydney	15-20	20-25	cloudy
Tokyo	5-10	10-15	cloudy
Toronto	3-8	8-13	cloudy
Vancouver	5-10	10-15	cloudy

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

This month, as an exception, the monthly meeting of the Skol Club Tel Aviv will take place Monday, 1 p.m., at the Tel Aviv Sheraton. Guest speaker will be Haim Stessel, chairman of Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The Martin and Shoshana Gerstel House in the Martha, Bram, Michael, and Philippe Laub International Science Youth Village was dedicated yesterday at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Court: Army can destroy suicide bomber's home

EVELYN GORDON

THE army can destroy the house belonging to the parents of the Tel Aviv bus bomber — a major shift from the previous policy of not destroying the homes of dead terrorists — the High Court of Justice said yesterday in a 4-1 decision.

It was ruling on a petition by Abed Nazal, of Kalkiya, father of suicide terrorist Sallah Nazal, against the army's decision to destroy all of the house except 2 1/2 rooms, in which Sallah's brother, Hassan, his wife and children will be allowed to continue living.

The petition, filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, argued that the demolition of the house was essentially a punishment, and a dead man cannot be punished. The punishment would fall entirely on the dead man's innocent family, and that is illegal, said attorney Elihu Abram.

However, Justices Meir Shamgar, Aharon Barak, Eliezer Goldberg, and Elihu Mazza rejected this argument. Justice Mishael Cheshin dissented.

Regulation 119 of the 1945 British Mandate Emergency Regulations, which are still in force, states: "A military commander may by order direct the forfeiture to the government ... of any house, structure, or land situated in any area, town, village, quarter, or street, the inhabitants or some of the inhabitants of which, he is satisfied, have committed ... any offense against these regulations involving violence or intimidation, or any military court offense."

"Thus, this is a draconian sanc-

tion which the military commander is authorized to impose on the masses, without distinction between guilty and innocent," Mazza wrote in the majority opinion. "The goal ... is to deter terrorists from committing murderous acts."

However, he continued, the courts have placed many limits on the powers conferred by this regulation; therefore, though the army's decision is clearly legal, it must also be reasonable.

The state argued that despite the army's previous policy of not destroying the homes of dead terrorists, the recent wave of fundamentalist suicide bombings has made a change in policy necessary. The only thing that might deter

him is the knowledge that his family will suffer for his action.

"A judge cannot positively determine that refraining from destroying the houses of suicide terrorists will not encourage potential terrorists to overcome their last hesitations about taking part in such attacks," Mazza wrote.

Finally, he said, the harm to the family is not the main effect of the demolition, as ACRIS argued, but a side effect of a deterrent action. In fact, he said, the army was being merciful in not destroying the section of the house belonging to Hassan, since Hassan had known Sallah was contemplating a suicide attack, but had done nothing to prevent it.

Cheshin, in his dissenting opin-

ion, accepted ACRIS's argument. Only the terrorist himself and those who helped him should suffer the consequences, he wrote; thus, the army should be allowed to destroy only Nazal's room within the house.

The petition had also argued that Sallah's identity as the bomber had not been proven, and that he did not actually live in his parents' house. However, all five justices rejected these claims.

Afterwards, Abram expressed disappointment with the decision.

"I'm not surprised," he said. "[But] to imagine that Hamas will be deterred from murdering someone in the future because four rooms were blown up in Kalkiya is farfetched."

Strong measures should be taken against the terrorists, he added,

but these measures "should not include innocent, uninvolved people."

If Nazal's family had expressed approval of their son's action, he added, he might have felt differently about the case.

The family seemed resigned to its fate.

"We lost our dear son," said Nazal's mother Halima told AP on hearing the ruling. "After Sallah, I don't care anymore; the house is not more important than Sallah. They can demolish it now, but they ought to know that he is in Paradise now."

She said the family planned to live in a tent. The 10 family members moved out their belongings when the demolition warrant was issued.

Hamas men apply to join Gaza police

JON IMMANUEL

HAMAS members have been applying to the Gaza police force as part of a special morale enforcement unit, Palestinian sources revealed yesterday.

Palestinian sources said the leading figure among the 90 or so Hamas recruits is Abed-Rabbu Abu Khousa, who was connected with the kidnap-murder of IDF soldier Ilan Sa'adon five years ago. Police would not confirm this or the existence of the unit.

Hamas first called for a morale enforcement unit at the end of May in a sermon by Sheikh Wajj Yaziji in the Palestine Mosque.

One day after the sermon, Hamas killers garroted two Palestinians outside Gaza's Seven-Up factory as alleged collaborators.

Security Chief Gen. Nasser Yusef threatened to "martyr 100 police to catch the killers," and relations with Hamas deteriorated.

However, the police did set up a "moral guardian police" unit under Lt.-Col. Hamdi Rifi. The name was meant to show that the police had Islamic values, although their job was to catch drug dealers, rapists, and drunks.

A senior PLO official said the current unit is headed by a former

member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Lt. Col. Hasan Amoudi.

He was sentenced to 15 years in Israeli prisons, released in the 1985 prisoner exchange, then deported and returned last year.

It is not clear why the existence of the unit was revealed yesterday, but it did show there are working relations between the major Islamic movement and the Palestinian Authority at a time when it is arresting members of the Islamic Jihad.

Thirty of the 170 Islamic Jihad activists arrested after the Netzarim attack Friday have been released.

Gaza City police chief Brig.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali said the 30 had only a marginal connection with the organization.

The establishment of the morale enforcement unit would help Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in several ways.

He wins more authority if Islamic radicals are seen participating in police work, it enables Hamas activists to hold on to their weapons, and spurs the PA the embarrassment of trying and failing to disarm them.

Army considers measures against Rajoub

ALON PINKAS

ISRAEL has officially filed a complaint with the Palestinian Authority over its violating the Cairo Accords by recruiting suspected murderers of collaborators into the Palestinian Police.

The army, meanwhile, is considering measures to counter Fibril Rajoub, the head of the Palestinian security apparatus in Jericho.

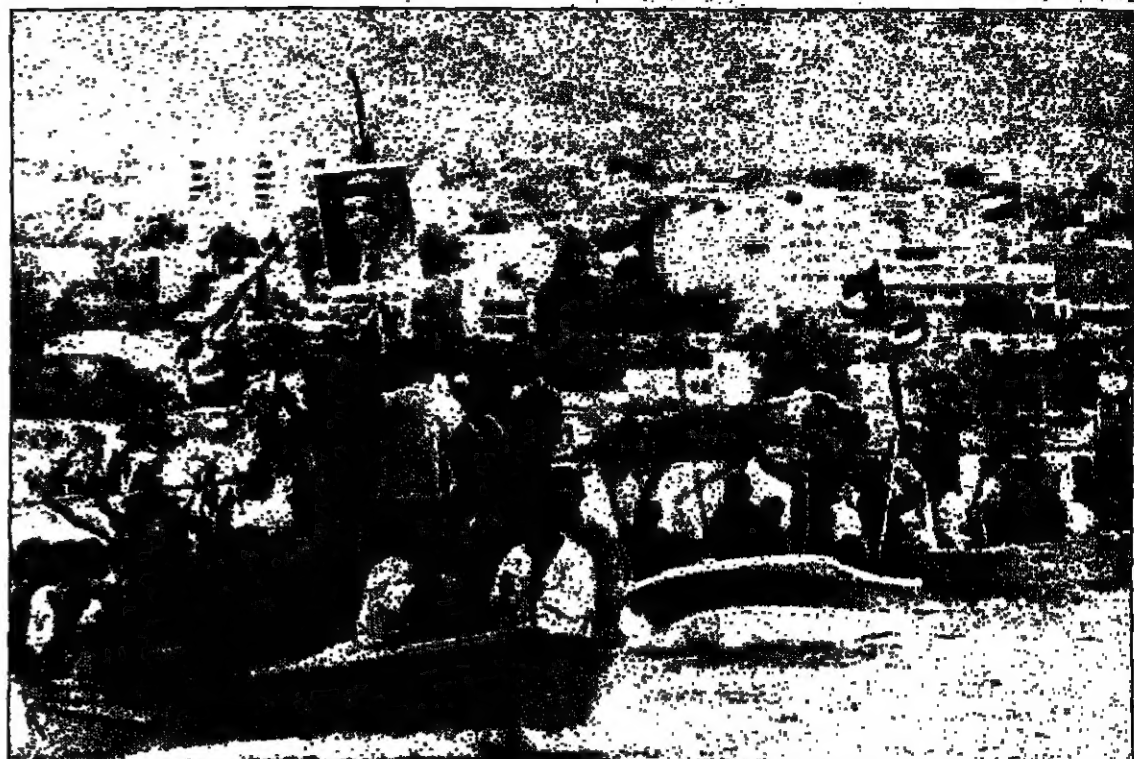
It has come up with three options: limiting the movement of Palestinian policemen outside Gaza and Jericho; supplying the US, which pays Palestinian Police salaries, with a list of wanted individuals and asking that their pay be suspended; arresting members of Rajoub's security forces who rove around the territories.

A senior IDF source said yesterday that a review of the film taken at the Jericho graduation ceremony of Palestinian security service trainees clearly shows several individuals wanted on suspicion of murdering alleged Palestinian collaborators. The source added that the army is also investigating whether Fibril Rajoub's men killed a collaborator in Tulkarm after the Cairo agreement was signed last May.

Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, said that what happened in Jericho was a violation of the Oslo agreement and Israel could impose sanctions, such as not transferring salaries or arresting anyone who leaves Jericho in violation of the agreement.

The Palestinian Police has been authorized, as part of early empowerment, to direct traffic in West Bank towns.

Dan Lenzberg contributed to this report.



Jubilant Jordanian boaters join a flotilla along the Jordanian-Israeli border on the Gulf of Akaba which sailed into the gulf to cheer on the first international water ski race and the peace process (AP)

Arafat suspends Fatah elections

JON IMMANUEL

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered the suspension of Fatah internal elections at an early morning meeting with senior Fatah officials in Gaza yesterday.

The elections would have established popularly elected Fatah grassroots leaders in key Fatah positions, but have been suspended indefinitely. Thus all Fatah officials remain, as before, Arafat appointees.

The suspension points toward a victory for "Tunis-Gaza Fatah" over "West Bank Fatah."

Elections were held in Ramallah 10 days ago, but instead of helping to unify the movement, the results pointed up sharp differences, partly related to the course of the peace process.

"There is no cancellation. No one has the right to cancel them," said Marwan Barghout, deputy head of the Higher Fatah Council outside the Palestinian Authority, who organized the town-by-town elections. He added he expects the election process to resume within a month.

Barghout wants a more independent, democratic Fatah structure than the existing one which grew up under military occupa-

tion. He sees a direct link between the Fatah elections and the elections to a Palestinian Council now under negotiation with Israel. He said he expects Fatah candidates for the council, which is to administer Palestinian territories, would eventually be nominated from among the winners of the municipal Fatah elections. "We don't want the leader [Arafat] to choose candidates," he said.

But in Gaza, where Arafat rules without competition, Fatah officials see things differently.

"There is a problem in the whole concept," said Diab Al-Louh, head of the Fatah media and culture department. "It is too early to have elections in the West Bank because of the occupation there. Fatah must first reach the minimum goal it has set for itself, the withdrawal of Israeli troops."

Al-Louh said that when Fatah elections do take place, there would be no connection at all between them and nominations to the elected council called for by the Oslo accords.

The Fatah organizing committee of which Barghout is a member is ultimately responsible for

internal elections. It is headed from Tunis by Mohammed Ghoneim (Abu Maher), who sent his personal representative, Othman Abu Gharbiyeh, to Gaza a month ago to check into the elections. Another recently arrived member of the department, Rabi Fatah, chairman of the popular workers and farmers' committees, also appears to have more seniority than Barghout.

Saeb Erakat, PA minister in charge of election negotiations, said that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's demands that the PA cancel the Palestinian Charter before elections was a breach of the peace accords.

"What Rabin is saying is that we don't have an agreement anymore. Every day we hear new excuses from Rabin ... I guess Rabin doesn't want to implement what he signed." Without elections and troop redeployment, the whole peace process would be in jeopardy, he told Israel Radio.

Barghout said that he saw no need for changing the charter because the Oslo agreement effectively changed everything that came before it. "The new reality won't change for many years," he said.

RABIN

(Continued from Page 1)

achieved," Rabin said. He also said he is "amazed" by Likud claims that a potential US force on the Golan could "endanger the notion of US-Israeli strategic cooperation."

This is especially so, he charged, since the Likud itself "set the Sinai precedent" in permitting a multinational force to monitor the Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

"The American public has not been worried that for 15 years, there have been about 1,000 US soldiers in the international Sinai force," Rabin said. "I think that if and when we reach a peace treaty with Syria, a monitoring force like this to prevent attacks is more important even than in Sinai."

Rabin is due to make the case in Washington next week for the continuation of Israel's \$3b. annual aid package.

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich told reporters aboard the plane that Rabin will speak by telephone next week with incoming Senate foreign relations committee chairman Jesse Helms.

Rabin in Hollywood, Page 4

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GSS agents testify in Oren Edri trial

THREE General Security Service agents testified yesterday as the trial of Lt. Oren Edri.

Edri is charged with removing firearms from IDF armories without authorization, conducting political military training, divulging classified information and conduct unbecoming an officer. A GSS agent identified as "Ronit" testified behind closed doors that though he was not present during the entire interrogation, Edri's head was covered with a sack and that he himself "insulted Edri by calling him a bastard and scum of the earth." Alon Pinkas

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At the same time, it must be pointed out that, until special lanes are allocated for buses only, which would extricate buses from the general crush of traffic, Egged is subject to the situation on the roads, and is unable to solve the problem unaided.

Egged calls on the government to act quickly, to give priority to public transport, so that the hundreds of thousands of people who travel by Egged will be able to arrive on time, without difficulty.

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Egged Management

Jordanian tomatoes fail test for quality

GALIT LIPKIS BECK
and Nim

THE first shipment of Jordanian tomatoes was not allowed into the country yesterday after failing to pass the Ministry of Agriculture's quality check.

The ministry said a new shipment of tomatoes from Jordan is expected to arrive on Sunday.

The ministry said the shipment, containing 20 tons of small and large tomatoes, arrived at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge yesterday morning. The tomatoes had external damage and many were covered in mold, large quantities of pesticide remains and soil, the ministry said.

The price of tomatoes has reached a new record high despite reports that the public is buying fewer of them, the ministry reported. It said the wholesale price of a kilo of tomatoes reached NIS 10.

Meanwhile, President Ezer Weizman yesterday said it was "shameful that Israel has to import tomatoes from abroad."



Two visitors check out the 'underground telephone' at the 'musical playground' inaugurated yesterday by the Jewish National Fund in the Ben Shimon forest. The playground is intended to raise children's awareness of sounds, but adults can have fun too. The play area was designed by sculptress Zippora Gendler and donated to the JNF by Morris Philip Arnold of England in memory of his mother Sara Ablovitz-Arnold. (Text List Collins)

21 airfields to be developed

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Transport Ministry ministry has plans to facilitate internal air transport by developing 21 airfields throughout the country, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said yesterday.

He said he sees no reason to limit the number of companies offering air taxi service, as long as they all fulfill ministry requirements. On the contrary, he said, there should be as many companies as possible in competition.

Speaking at a seminar for transportation spokesmen, Kessar also revealed that according to an agreement between the ministry and the police, the ministry is to provide personnel for the police

border checks of incoming and outgoing passengers. He said that as a result of a shortage of police personnel, there are bottlenecks at airports and border crossings, with some passengers forced to wait in line for hours.

Kessar stressed there would still be a police border unit at each entry point, but said the routine work of checking passengers on the computer would be done by ministry personnel.

He added that this week he had approved two new routes for trains to Jerusalem. It was necessary, he said, to designate the land as soon as possible, before it was snapped up for building.

Meretz to keep capital street open to traffic

HERB KEINON

TRAFFIC on Rehov Bar-Ilan, a major thoroughfare in northern Jerusalem that haredim want to close on Shabbat, will likely be heavier than usual tonight, as Meretz activists plan to drive up and down the street to ensure it remains open to traffic.

"We want to ensure the freedom of transportation," said Meretz city councillor Ornan Yekutieli.

In addition to people driving the road, Yekutieli said others will be walking along the road to make sure no one throws rocks at passing cars. According to Yekutieli, each week for the last month there have been four to five incidents of cars being stoned by haredim on the road.

"If we see somebody throw stone at a car, we will make sure the police deal with him," Yekutieli said. "The spilling of secular blood can not go unpunished."

Yekutieli said he does not see these patrols as a "provocation,"

but that "if haredi thugs start to close the street, secular Jews have to defend themselves."

Dov Rabinovitch, a United Tora faction member on Jerusalem's city council, said that Yekutieli, "who boasts to being a great democrat and protector of the rule of law, shows that he is only opposed to law-breaking if it is done by haredim."

According to Rabinovitch, there is no reason not to close Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, since two alternate routes in the city are available to motorists.

Rehov Bar-Ilan, which haredim have for years tried unsuccessfully to close on Shabbat, separates a number of haredi neighborhoods from one another.

A special panel appointed by the Jerusalem Municipality to find a solution to the controversy of the road has suggested it be closed during the hours of Shabbat prayers. These recommendations have not yet been implemented.

Charges filed against Zagreb neo-Nazis

BATSHEVA TSUR

A MILITARY prosecutor in Zagreb yesterday filed charges against nine neo-Nazis suspected of demonstrating outside the Jewish community center in the Croatian capital.

The demonstration took place last Thursday evening when members of the community gathered in the center to hear a lecture on Croatian right-wing extremists. The community building was rebuilt after a bomb exploded there in August 1991.

Appearing before the military tribunal yesterday, the prosecutor demanded a minimum of five years' imprisonment for Mladen Schwarz, 46, Velimir Bujanac, 24, and seven other defendants aged between 25-35. The indictment charged them with provoking nationalist, racist and religious hostility.

"This is the first time that the 'neo-Nazi party has come out in the open and demonstrated against the Jews," said Ya'acov Bienenfeld, one of the community leaders, in a telephone interview from Zagreb. He described the party members as "a handful of fringe elements."

Haifa to get face-lift

DAVID RUDGE

HAIFA is undergoing a massive face-lift at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, according to Mayor Amram Mitzna.

He said massive tourism development was already under way and more was planned, in addition to proposed overhaul of the city's road network.

Mitzna outlined details of the multi-million dollar projects to senior staff of *The Jerusalem Post*, led by President and Publisher Yehuda Levy, when they visited the city on Wednesday.

Mitzna said the major road scheme was a \$120 million proposal to cut a tunnel through the heart of the Carmel Mountain from the southern outskirts near Rehov Frend directly to the Checkpoint junction leading to the bay-side suburbs.

He said he expected the road project - covering a distance of more than five kilometers - to get under way by the end of next year or the beginning of 1996.

On tourism development, Mitzna unveiled plans for massive construction of hotels and holiday homes along the whole stretch of

the shoreline from Bat Galim as far south as the outskirts of Tzur Carmel.

A hotel-holiday village complex is slated for the southern beach area, while work has already started on the Carmel Beach Towers project in the central area along the shoreline.

Mitzna said at a later stage a marina and hotels complex will be built in the Bat Galim area on the northern reaches of the shoreline, which will involve reclaiming scores of dunams of land from the sea.

He said most of the projects had already received planning permission, and the "dream will become a reality within the next decade."

Meanwhile, the Baha'i faith - which has its headquarters and holy shrine in Haifa, is in the process of carrying out a \$250 million project to construct new buildings and landscape scores of dunams at the Carmel Mountain with terraced gardens and water cascades.

Mitzna added that there were also plans to renovate the city's German Colony, as well as develop extensive downtown areas.

Strike Monday to shut Haifa industrial plants

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HAIFA and the entire northern district will grind to a halt Monday as thousands of workers in hundreds of plants stage a two-hour strike, meetings and marches to protest growing regional unemployment.

The protest, which was decided upon by the Histadrut's Haifa district office, will begin at 10 a.m. with a large rally at the Rafael plant, followed by a rally and a march at Israel Shipyard, and later at Taas-Israel Industries.

The rallies and marches will be attended by the mayors of Haifa and nearby towns, and by Histadrut Trade Union Section head

MK Amir Peretz. They are being used as a prelude to more extreme sanctions planned for the days to follow.

Meanwhile, workers at the Paz, Delek and Sonol oil companies intend to disrupt work in the companies and even strike, due to the dispute they have with the company managements over their work conditions.

Earlier this week, the Histadrut announced a labor dispute in the three oil companies, which employ 800 workers, due to management's intention to reduce the workers' wages by 25% to 35%.

Russians close antisemitic paper

RUSSIAN authorities have revoked the registration of an antisemitic Palestinian paper, whose self-proclaimed mission is "combating Zionism." The editor of *Al-Kuds* Russian weekly edition, Vladimir Yakushev, called the State Press Committee decision "a glaring case of arbitrary rule." But press committee head Sergei Gryzmov told the ITAR-Tass news agency that *Al-Kuds* registration had been canceled because contrary to Russian law, it publisher is a foreigner. AP

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Hundreds expected at Netzarim

HERB KEINON

THE population of Netzarim is expected to swell from about 180 to more than 1,000 for Shabbat, as hundreds of people go there to

show their support for the embattled settlement.

"We received numerous calls through the week from people expressing their support, and saying they want to come join us to show their identification with the settlement," said Netzarim spokeswoman Miri Harari.

Following last week's terror attack at the Netzarim junction that killed three soldiers, there were a number of calls by government ministers to uproot the settlement.

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Likud debates how to pick next Knesset list

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud executive bureau last night began a crucial deliberation on primaries, seen as the single greatest bone of contention inside the party today and the ultimate key to any resolution of MK David Levy's feud with party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

Levy boycotted the session, as he has done since he lost the party leadership to Netanyahu in the 1993 primary. But he did send his lieutenants to look after his interests.

The 600-member bureau began to examine how the party's next Knesset list will be selected. The foregone conclusion is that it will be some form of primaries, though the exact nature of the process is seen in the party as the real underlying cause of the ongoing rift between Levy and Netanyahu.

Levy wants to assure that he will control as much of the list as possible. The last primaries nearly wiped out Levy's support in the Knesset. Thus, he opposes a system whereby all the candidates are elected by the entire Likud membership in primaries, and wants a considerable portion of the list to be elected by local branches. This, he believes, will give him the edge in development towns.

Netanyahu and the party majority do not want excessive power left in the hands of otherwise dormant local branches, a situation

which could lead to corruption and warped results, as the experience in Labor has shown. There is a relatively small number of local members could select a Knesset candidate, while another contestant lost, despite amassing far more votes in the nationwide race.

Bureau chairman MK Uzi Landau warned that his party must "carefully study the Labor experience, lest we fall into the same traps. The Labor experience with primaries has not been encouraging. Many mediocre MKs were elected and there is a sense of anarchy, with the MKs feeling they have no accountability to any party framework. But there is also a profound danger to democracy in a system that demands considerable outlay of cash by the candidate, a fact which could limit the field either to those who are rich or to those who will sell out to wealthy sponsors and power-brokers, not unlike what we see in Italy today."

Among the suggestions put forth was a two-tiered process, whereby the 3,600-member central committee would elect the panel of candidates who would then be ranked on the slate by the entire party membership.

Netanyahu is known to be putting finishing touches to his own proposal, which has yet to be submitted.

IPO and Mehta score a hit in Japan

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zubin Mehta, has played to full houses and enthusiastic reviews in Japan on the first stop of its current three-nation Asian tour, especially in Tokyo, where *Asahi Shimbun* music critic Hidekazu Yoshida praised the performance of Mahler's 5th symphony. The IPO now travels to China for concerts in Beijing and Shanghai, starting on November 23.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Zeev Katz and his family on the passing of his beloved mother

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On the Shloshim of the passing of our beloved son, brother and grandson

YISSACHAR DOV LERBA ז"ל

A Siyum will be held on Sunday, November 20, 1994 at Mitzpe Ramot Synagogue at 7:30 p.m. Unveiling at Mt. Herzl Monday, November 21, 1994 at 9 a.m.

THE FAMILY

The unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

CHANA THEE ז"ל

will take place on Sunday, November 20, 1994 at 3:30 p.m., at the Eretz Hahayim Cemetery (near Beit Shemesh).

For transportation, call 02-664610.

The Family

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

Dr. JULIA NEUFELD

widow of Prof. Henry Neufeld

The funeral will take place today, Friday, November 18, 1994, at 12 noon at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

Mourning by:

Her son, Dr. David Neufeld

Her daughter and son-in-law, Bina and Dr. Oded Ben-Chaim and granddaughters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Auschwitz survivors won't invite Arafat

WARSAW (AP) — Auschwitz survivors said yesterday they will not invite PLO leader Yasser Arafat to the 50th anniversary of the Nazi death camp's liberation.

Auschwitz National Committee chairman Baron Maurice Goldstein told the Associated Press yesterday that the group decided not to invite the 1994 laureates because they have not yet officially received the prize.

"There was so much opposition against the participation of Arafat that we believe that we should do everything to exclude the possibility of a confrontation in such a holy place as Auschwitz," he said in a telephone interview from Brussels.

New commander for northern region police

Cdr. Amos Azani has been appointed head of the police northern region to replace Ya'acov Ganot, who has been on voluntary leave following an inquiry into allegations of accepting gifts.

Azani has been assistant head of the investigations department at the national police headquarters. Ganot has maintained his innocence regarding the allegations and said he was prepared to stand trial to clear his name.

Beit She'an workers protest firings

Dozens of angry workers demonstrated outside the Rabinex factory in Beit She'an yesterday after management sacked three employees recently elected to the works committee.

The workers charged that management hired special private security guards to protect the premises and equipment at the factory, which manufactures military equipment.

Haim Lavi, one of the sacked works committee members, charged that the firm could have invested the money it had spent on the security guards on raising employees' salaries.

Reporters at the scene who asked to speak to management representatives were asked to leave by the security guards.

US firm plans light rail system for Jerusalem

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday signed a \$400,000 deal with an American firm to plan a light rail system for the capital.

The plan is expected to be ready in four months, after which the Jerusalem Municipality and the Transport Ministry will decide whether or not to implement it. The light rail system idea has been proposed to help solve the capital's burgeoning traffic problem.

Local authorities threaten to halt building

Local authorities throughout the country have threatened to delay giving building permits for some 50,000 apartments unless the government immediately fulfills the budgetary agreement it made with the Council of Local Authorities. The move, which could bring residential construction to a halt, was decided upon at an emergency meeting of those local authorities which are entitled to additional aid.

No negligence in theft of tank

The head of the committee investigating Sgt. Amit Nehemia's theft of a tank from the Judea IDF base on November 6 has submitted an interim report to OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran. The report states there was no negligence either on the part of Nehemia's officers or the base commanders. It also recommended a special study day be conducted to enable officers to better identify distressed soldiers. The final report has yet to be submitted.

Ancient curses found in Caesarea well

Archaeologists have dug up a cache of ancient curses thrown down a well by Romans intent on causing misfortune to their enemies 1,500 years ago, the *New Scientist* magazine reported yesterday.

The hoard of soft lead tablets inscribed with malevolent wishes was found at the site of the ancient Roman settlement of Caesarea Maritima.

"They seem to read like magic potions," said Kathryn Gleason of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, who led the dig. Scientists will start deciphering the curse tablets in January.

Dinitz allegedly compares status to PM's

The head of the Jewish Agency's Emissary Department yesterday continued his testimony in the ongoing trial of agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz on fraud and breach of trust charges. Ori Ilash told Jerusalem District Court that he had personally informed Dinitz that his wife was permitted to accompany him abroad at agency expense only once in three years.

He said that in response, Dinitz maintained his status was similar to that of the prime minister, and therefore his wife had the right to accompany him whenever he traveled.

Woman allegedly tries to drown her baby

A Jerusalem woman suspected of attempting to drown her seven-month-old son was brought in for questioning by police Wednesday evening.

About three weeks ago, the woman, 34, who was suffering from post partum depression, allegedly tried to drown the boy while giving him a bath. When the baby turned blue, she yanked him from the water and screamed to her husband for help. He started to resuscitate the baby, and called Magen David Adom, which took him to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

The hospital reported the incident to the police.

Tel Aviv man arrested for wiretapping

Police yesterday arrested a Tel Aviv man, 44, on suspicion of wiretapping. The wiretapping is believed to have been carried out on behalf of an insurance agent out to beat the competition.

Reform Movement protests 'tailored' grant

The Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) yesterday charged that a Religious Affairs Ministry grant was tailor-made for an Agudat Yisrael institution, the Degel Yerushalayim Cultural Fund, which last year ran a country-wide quiz on *shmita*.

A ministry announcement on the grant, for which the fund received NIS 70,000, was made this week. It said that funds would be given for "National and World Quizzes for the *Shmita* year." The *shmita* year itself ended on Rosh Hashana.

Man injured in car stoning

A Shufat resident was moderately wounded in the face by glass shards when his car was stoned near El Jib, north of Jerusalem, last night.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin enjoys a moment in the Hollywood spotlight alongside media mogul David Geffen and singer Barbra Streisand.

Stars come out for Rabin

HILLEL KUTTLER

LOS ANGELES

WITH the sun at its zenith at mid-day Wednesday, the stars came out for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

It was, on a smaller scale, like this city's most glamorous event, the Academy Awards: Hollywood's biggest names drove up in the glitziest cars, alighted, grabbed a receipt from the valet, and waved to the beeping paparazzi before ducking into Morton's Restaurant.

Stars? You name them, they were there: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbra Streisand, Warren Beatty, Michael Douglas, Richard Dreyfuss, Jay Leno, Rob Reiner, and Leonard Nimoy.

Then there was the event's host, recording industry tycoon David Geffen, along with MCA Studios chairman Lew Wasserman, billionaire oilman and former 20th Century Fox head Marvin Davis, and a cast of 75.

The event was coordinated by the Israel Policy Forum, a New York-based group that has strongly supported the peace process.

The stars played new roles for the day. The idols of millions were the awed audience, having come to hear one of the Middle East's leading men talk about his role as peacemaker.

"There was a line — a line, I tell you — to get their picture taken with him," an Israeli consulate official said after the no-press-allowed luncheon of arguilla salad with sliced Roma tomatoes, grilled Atlantic salmon, and warm apple tart with caramel sauce.

Why had Douglas come? "I'm a long-standing friend of Israel from my father [Kirk], who's been a visitor many times, and it's an honor to meet a Nobel Prize winner, and an opportunity to hear him

Black Hebrews to receive NII child allowances

AMIR ROZENBLIT

BLACK Hebrews will now be entitled to child allowances from the National Insurance Institute.

Led by its leader, Ben-Ami Carter, the group recently asked that it be granted various NII allowances, particularly child allowances. Hannah Keren-Ya'ar, an NII spokeswoman, said yesterday this request had been approved recently, after the Interior Ministry provided the NII with a list of all group members living here illegally.

Members of the group have been living here since 1969, mainly in Dimona, Arad, and Mitzpe Ramon, and today number about 2,500. For a long time, their status here was uncertain, but the Interior Ministry granted them temporary resident status over a year ago.

NII officials will be facing a special problem, since members of the group do not recognize a baby's existence until it is a year old, when it receives a name. Until then, they are referred to as *taf*, the biblical term for infants, and the NII will have to pay hundreds of child allowances to parents whose children have no names.

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29544, 87549, 24742, 26129, 24333, 98870, 21536, 49975, 71319, 73262, 88643, 14951 and 23938 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 331, 583, 725, and 257 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 33, 06, 30 and 04 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 21, 74, 38, 76, 68, 77 and 46 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 5 won NIS 7.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

Irish prime minister resigns

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
DUBLIN

JUST weeks after being cheered as an international hero for helping bring about an IRA cease-fire, Albert Reynolds resigned yesterday in disgrace over the way he governed Ireland.

"In life... you can't win them all," a grim Reynolds told hushed lawmakers who had gathered to vote no confidence in his 22-month-old coalition government. At times Reynolds came near to tears.

All parties agreed that Reynolds was right to quit for having misled the Dail, the lower house of Parliament, about the appointment of former attorney general Harry Whelehan to a top judicial post despite Whelehan's evident negligence in the case of a child-molesting priest.

Whelehan, sworn in as president of the High Court just three days earlier, announced yesterday that he too would resign despite the "unjust attacks" against him. Reynolds' departure left lawmakers stunned, the government facing a potentially tortuous road to repair, and prospects for peace diplomacy in Northern Ireland uncertain.

Irish and British ministers had been working for several months on a "framework document" to guide inter-party talks in Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin, the IRA's political partners, had just joined mainstream debate with Reynolds' pet project, a multi-party peace forum at Dublin Castle.

Those efforts now are in limbo after one of the strangest weeks in the 72-year history of the southern Irish state.

"We're living in extraordinary



Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds says good-bye to President Mary Robinson following his resignation in Dublin yesterday. (AP)

days. So much of what has happened this week has never happened before," said Gerard Hogan, Ireland's foremost constitutional expert at Trinity College Dublin.

Labor opposed Whelehan because he was a conservative Catholic opposed to abortion and, Labor claimed, responsible for ignoring for seven months an ex-

tradition request from Northern Ireland for a Catholic priest, the Rev. Brendan Smyth.

Smyth returned north under orders from Cardinal Cahal Daly to begin serving his four-year sentence.

Labor stormed out of a Cabinet meeting Friday but Reynolds went ahead with the appointment, then embarrassingly backtracked

all week, blaming Labor for playing politics, then Whelehan for withholding or ignoring key information, then finally himself.

"There's a sense of bewilderment and disbelief still that this has happened given [Reynolds'] outstanding achievements, particularly in relation to Northern Ireland, which no one can take from him and which will secure his

place in history," said Micheal Martin, a Fianna Fail lawmaker. Informal negotiations between a half-dozen parties began immediately to cobble together a new working coalition.

The balance of power in the 166-seat Dail means that no working majority can be formed without the support of Labor's 32 lawmakers. (AP)

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams visits London

EDITH M. LEDERER
LONDON

SINN Fein leader Gerry Adams, the IRA supporter who served two terms in the House of Commons without entering the building, showed up yesterday to accuse Britain of delaying peace in Northern Ireland.

His mere appearance, which would have been illegal last month, was a sign of just how far the Northern Ireland peace process has come.

Prime Minister John Major lifted an exclusion order banning Adams from the Britain on October 21, seven weeks after the IRA announced that it was ceasing its violent campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Making his first visit to London since the ban was lifted, Adams said he would feel "a greater affinity" for the centuries-old Palace of Westminster if lawmakers working inside passed legislation to end British involvement in Northern Ireland.

That possibility isn't even remotely on the horizon.

The British government plans to start exploratory talks with Sinn Féin before Christmas. Meetings with Sinn Féin would be the first step toward talks involving other Northern Ireland parties. Britain has promised the pro-British Protestant majority in Northern Ireland that there will be a referendum on any future poli-

tical settlement.

At a crowded news conference in a Commons committee room, Adams accused Prime Minister John Major's government of stalling the peace process.

"The British prime minister has already acknowledged that this government will be talking to Sinn Féin in the near future. Why delay? Why place the still evolving and delicate peace process in Ireland under such unnecessary strain and pressure? There is no logic in that position," he said.

Adams said the British government was being "most unhelpful" in refusing to see him during his 48-hour visit.

He said he also planned to pay a courtesy call on US Ambassador William J. Crowe today.

Some hard-line Conservative lawmakers were unhappy at Adams' appearance at the Commons, as guest of left-wing opposition Labor Party lawmaker Tony Benn.

"It is outrageous he should be here like this," said Tory lawmaker David Evans. "He was an MP for years and never came near the place."

Adams was elected to represent Catholic west Belfast from 1983 to 1992 but never took his seat, in line with Sinn Féin's historic policy of boycotting British institutions.

Ex-FBI official: Hamas, Hizbullah operate support network in US

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Muslim fundamentalist groups Hamas and Hizbullah operate a support network across the United States and are recruiting and training people here for terrorist operations overseas, according to a former top FBI official.

"Drawing contributions from thousands of unsuspecting American Muslims, the militants raise money, hold rallies and conferences, bring in 'bona fide terrorists' as speakers, buy weapons and engage in training operations," said Oliver Revell, who oversaw the FBI's counterterrorism program as the bureau's No. 2 official.

"The United States is a very fertile ground for them," Revell said recently by telephone from

his home in Dallas. "Though the extremists consider the United States to be 'a great Satan,'" he said, "they come from countries that if they carried out their extremist beliefs they would face sanctions."

Revell, who retired in August, said the FBI was able to prevent the bombing of a theater in Seattle and forestall other acts of terrorism.

"But the hard part for the bureau," he said, "is there is no central data collection, and FBI guidelines virtually require commission of a crime before you can go in and investigate these groups that have been cloaking themselves in freedom of speech and freedom of religion."

Last month, Philip Wilcox, di-

rector of the State Department's counterterrorism office, convened a meeting of officials from the department, the FBI, the CIA, the National Security Council and the Justice and Treasury departments. Wilcox has held several follow-up meetings designed to use "all legal means to curb fund raising in the United States for terrorist activities by Hamas and others," his office said.

A documentary, *Jihad in America*, produced by investigative reporter Steven Emerson, will be telecast by the Public Broadcasting Service on Monday. Revell appears on the program, which traces the rise of Islamic militants in the United States to the CIA-funded Mujahadeen campaign against Soviet invaders in Afghan-

istan 15 years ago.

Operating from a refugee center in Brooklyn, NY, fund-raisers have gone around the country raising money and preaching holy war, Emerson said.

"We have documented at least a dozen... conferences that have taken place in America in the past five years where militant leaders from around the world have praised acts of terrorism and urged their followers to wage jihad (holy war)," he reported.

Twelve Muslim and Arab-American groups protested the documentary and held a news conference Wednesday outside PBS headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, to underscore their request for air time to respond.

The documentary "fails to provide any hard evidence, other than the assertions of those whose credibility and objectivity is in doubt, to back up its allegations," the groups said in a joint statement.

They called the charges and accusations a new form of McCarthyism - a reference to the anti-Communist witch hunts of the 1950s led by Sen. Joe McCarthy - and said Muslims define jihad as personal effort or striving in the cause of Islam.

In response, PBS issued a statement that said the documentary "is a well-documented work of investigative journalism that presents evidence supported by two years of research, including newly uncovered videotapes and interviews with senior counterterrorism FBI and law enforcement officials."

Emerson identifies Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind cleric from Egypt who came to the United States in 1990, as in control of the jihad movement in the United States.

UN bomb plot sheikh rushed to Manhattan hospital

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a fiery Egyptian cleric charged with plotting to bomb the United Nations and other landmarks, was rushed to the hospital yesterday suffering from complications from pneumonia, an aide to the cleric said.

"He's in very bad shape," Ahmed Sattar, the sheikh's paralegal, told Reuters.

Sattar said he had spoken with Abdel-Rahman about 11 p.m. on Wednesday. "He really couldn't talk. His breathing was very heavy. He was coughing and spitting up blood and running a high fever," Sattar said.

The cleric was removed from his two-room cell at the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan yesterday and taken to an unidentified hospital, he said.

He is believed to be in the prison ward at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan, sources told Reuters.

Abdel-Rahman, 56, who is blind, has diabetes, a heart condition and asthma. He was diagnosed on Tuesday with pneumonia and was being treated with antibiotics.

Book says Jackie O had affair with Bobby

NEW YORK (AP) - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and her brother-in-law Robert F. Kennedy became lovers after President Kennedy's assassination, according to an author whose sensational biographies have been criticized as inaccurate.

In an updated edition of his 1989 *A Woman Named Jackie*, C. David Heymann describes her relationship with Robert Kennedy as an "on-again, off-again affair."

It began after Robert Kennedy moved from Washington to New York the year after his brother's slaying in 1963 and lasted until his own assassination in 1968, the book says.

During that time, Robert Kennedy was married. The president's widow married Aristotle Onassis in October 1968, four months after Robert Kennedy's death.

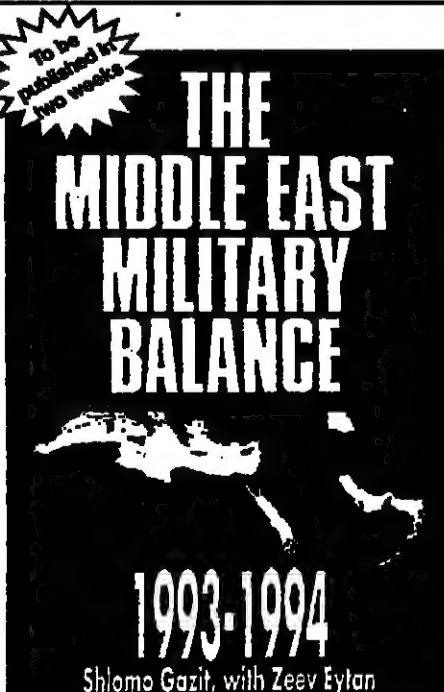
The book cites as sources Robert Kennedy's chauffeur, a woman who said she saw the pair emerging from a hotel room in 1965 and a socialite who nodded "yes" to whether the two spent nights together at her home in Jamaica in 1966. None of the sources were identified by name.

Heymann also suggests that Mrs. Onassis hastened her own death with morphine and Seconal rather than continue fighting an untreatable cancer.

The *New York Post*, which first reported the book's contents, quoted Tuckerman as calling the claim about her death "unbelievable."

The original version of the book in 1989 generated accusations that Heymann had changed the content or context of quotes and hadn't spoken to people he said he had interviewed.

Heymann's 1983 *Poor Little Rich Girl: The Life and Legend of Barbara Hutton* was recalled by its publisher in 1984 because of factual errors, including an assertion that excessive amounts of drugs were prescribed for Hutton by a doctor who would have been 14 years old at the time.



THE MIDDLE EAST MILITARY BALANCE
1993-1994
Edited by Shlomo Gazit, with Zeev Eytan

The tenth annual edition of the Middle East Military Balance, published by Tel Aviv University's prestigious Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, comprises, as always, a thorough, up-to-date listing of all military and related strategic capabilities of all countries in the region, as well as the PLO; comparative tables and detailed glossary. The volume's Survey of Strategic Developments includes an extensive analytic description of the Israel-Arab peace process, along with detailed and innovative chapters on the Iranian threat, the impact of new technologies on the strategy balance, Israel's qualitative edge, arms control and non-conventional proliferation in the region, Palestinian and Hizbullah terrorism, and the American and European roles in the peace process.

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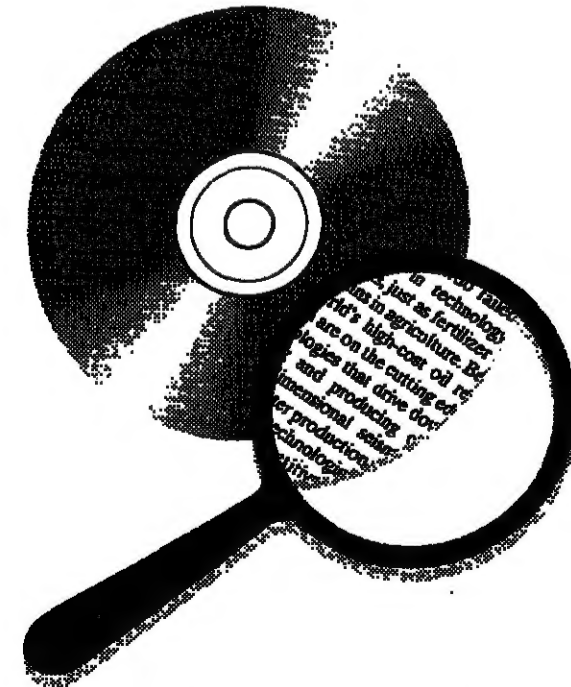
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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Rehovot, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 315666, Telex 26121, Fax 389527, CIRCULATION - 315610, Fax 389017, ADVERTISING - 315608, 315637-40, Fax 389408, TEL. AVIV: 5 Rehovot, Rehovot, P.O. Box 28398 (61283) Telephone 6390333, Fax 6390277, HAIFA: 19 Nordau, Haifa
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Arafat's remarkable consistency

HAD the issue not been so critical, one could find Fatah Preventive Security chief Fibril Rajoub's reaction to Israeli complaints quite comical. Rajoub first vehemently denied that the graduates of his security training school yelled slogans against the "Zionist invaders" and exhorted the Palestinian people to bring the armed struggle to Jerusalem, Haifa, Beit She'an and Ashdod. "It is all a big lie," he said with a straight face, even though he knew that the whole ceremony was recorded on videotape. His lieutenants later admitted the slogans were shouted, but explained that these were old slogans which Fatah gunmen were still using only because no new ones had been formulated.

Nor would Rajoub admit that some of his most distinguished graduates were wanted murderers. "At most they spent some time in jail, as I did," he said. "But they have no blood on their hands." One of these graduates, Jawad Shahwan, is a former prisoner convicted of murdering five Palestinians. Others have similar records. Yasser Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi was far more honest on this issue. He said that Israel simply did not understand the place these convicted killers, leaders of the intifada, have in Palestinian society. They are heroes. And no power in the world can get the PLO leadership to ostracize them. Clearly, Tibi is correct: they will continue to form the mainstay of the Palestinian security forces.

Worse, Rajoub's men are openly establishing their authority over the Arab population of Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem with the army's tacit approval. One of them, Nasser Nadjji Abu Khmeid, a convicted Fatah death-squad leader sentenced to 11 life sentences for murdering nine Arabs (he boasts the real number is 13) was recently released by Israel on condition he stay in Jericho. He was caught by the Israeli police carrying a Kalashnikov near Ramallah. Other Rajoub men operate in every Arab town and village in Judea and Samaria. A large number are serving as security forces for the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem with the consent of the IDF and the General Security Service.

Such goings-on worry even the government's most dedicated doves and enthusiastic supporters of the agreement with the PLO. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Wednesday, "Refusing undesirable and wanted individuals into the Palestinian security service is a very serious mistake on the part of the Palestinian Authority...The agreement is based on good faith, and almost every day we hear provocations which hurt this faith."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has described PLO pronouncements as incitement to violence and a breach of the Oslo accord. Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer said that recruiting anyone to the Palestinian Police without Israeli approval is a grave violation of the Declaration of Principles. So is the refusal of the Palestinian Authority to extradite to Israel men

wanted for the murder of Jews.

Yet none of these offenses is as ominous as Arafat's speeches. In what can only be characterized as remarkable consistency, Arafat has been conveying the exact same message to his constituency ever since he shook hands with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the White House lawn. In fact, on the very same day, September 13, 1993, he delivered a speech to the Palestinian people, on Jordan television in which he never mentioned peace with Israel, nor the PLO's purported renunciation of terrorism. But he did tell his listeners, "Do not forget that our Palestine National Council made the decision in 1974. It called for the establishment of national authority on any part of Palestinian soil that is liberated or from which the Israelis withdraw. It is the fruit of your struggles, sacrifices and jihad."

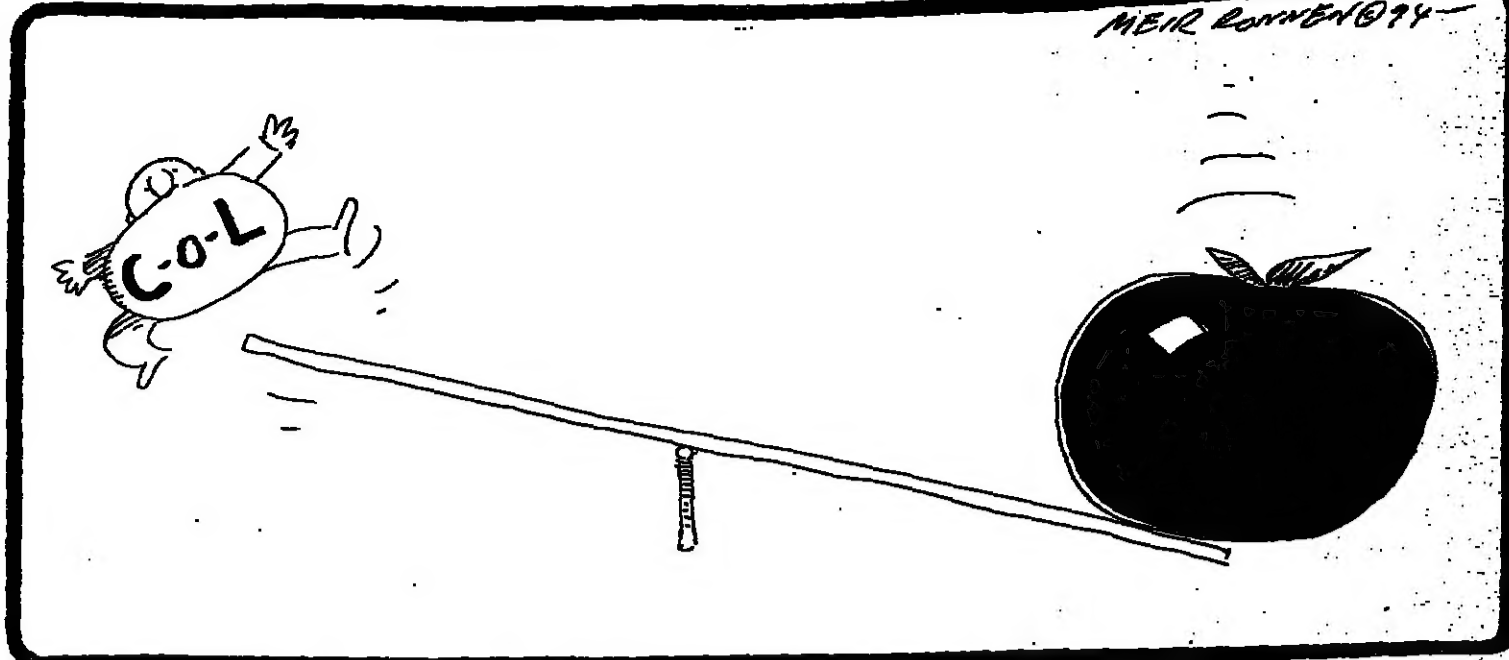
In May of this year in Johannesburg he called for jihad to liberate Jerusalem. Since then, he has repeatedly talked in public of jihad, liberating Palestine, and making Jerusalem its capital. On Tuesday, celebrating the Palestinian national day, he repeated the reference to 1974: "What has been a dream has become a reality," he said. "In 1974 the PNC decided on establishing a Palestinian Authority on the first piece of land from which the enemy has withdrawn or that we have liberated."

On Wednesday, speaking before thousands at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, he said again, "In 1974 we made a decision to establish our rule over any land liberated from Israeli rule, and we shall realize this decision. We receive instructions from no one and we'll continue to settle the evacuated areas with the aim of establishing the state of Palestine."

Much has been made of Arafat's Tuesday reference to Israel as "the enemy," an expression hardly compatible with the peace agreement. But it is the far more worrisome reference to 1974 which should give Israelis pause. In the Arab world, 1974 is a known code, an allusion to the "plan of phases" formulated by the PLO.

Realizing after the Yom Kippur War that Israel could not be defeated in battle as long as it possessed the territories, the plan proposed establishing a Palestinian sovereignty in whatever areas could be extracted from Israel, using them as a bridgehead for an armed struggle against a shrunken Israel. Then the final drive to destroy Israel would be launched, with the help and cooperation of the Arab states.

Some observers claim that Arafat is compelled to say these things to preempt the radicals. But this is precisely what is so worrisome. If the mood among Palestinians is such that he has to preach the destruction of Israel to survive as a leader, and if incitement to violence - as even Beilin has defined his speeches - is what his constituency wants to hear, then the chances of peace with the Palestinians are dim indeed.



Victorious climax for Zionism

ABBA EBAN

RELATIONS between Syria and Israel have been the subject of intense diplomatic scrutiny three times since the 1967 war.

First: In June 1967, immediately following the Six Day War, Jerusalem considered the policies it would submit to Arab governments through the US.

The tactical objective was to prevent a repetition of the 1956 experience, when international pressures caused Israel to withdraw from Sinai without a peace settlement. The Israeli government was headed by Levi Eshkol and had recently been reinforced by the adhesion of Menachem Begin and Moshe Dayan. Its proposals were:

- a peace treaty with Egypt on the basis of the international boundary, with guarantees of free passage through the international waterways at Suez and the Straits of Tiran;

- a peace treaty with Syria on the basis of the international boundary, with guarantees of respect for Israel's water rights;

- the initiation of a dialogue with Jordan for the purpose of exploring the possibility of a "territories-for-peace" settlement. It would be explained to Jordan that the Israeli government had not reached a consensus on this issue.

These proposals were conveyed by me as foreign minister to the US representatives on June 19, 1967. Our American interlocutors praised the tone of our proposals and promised to seek Arab reactions.

On September 1, the Arab League meeting in Khartoum de-

cided to reject the Israeli proposals in four implacable negatives: no peace, no bargaining, no recognition, no negotiation. In reference to this episode, I subsequently said that "our Arab neighbors never lost a chance of missing an opportunity."

Second: In the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War, Israel and the

are concluded, Syria does not have a tradition of violation if concrete interests are at stake.

Third: The Assad administration in Damascus has now announced a "strategic decision to seek a just and durable peace with Israel." This indicates a sharp change of policy and attitude.

Peace with Syria, if accom-

A carefully monitored treaty with Syria would really enhance Israel's security

US concluded that hostilities might well be renewed if immense concentrations of military forces and weaponry remained in dangerous proximity in Suez and the Golan, against the background of Soviet threats of intervention and a continued state of war.

In May-June 1974, a Syria-Israeli disengagement agreement was mediated by secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

As foreign minister, I participated in all the meetings of the Israeli negotiation group. Later, as chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, I persistently interrogated defense spokesmen and military leaders on the implementation of the Syrian agreement. The invariable response was that the Syrians were fulfilling their contractual obligations.

I concluded that it is excruciatingly difficult to get Syria to conclude agreements - but once they

nied by effective monitoring, and concrete security measures and undertakings, would dramatically enhance Israeli security and spell irreversible success for the current peace process.

The effectiveness of a treaty should be judged by the three criteria that go beyond its text.

Does it contain advantages that a country would lose by violating it?

Would the violation be worth the risk of countermeasures that could be taken by the aggrieved party?

Would failure to honor the treaty weaken the defaulting country's international position to such a degree that other countries would refuse to make agreements with it?

An Israel-Syria peace treaty, achieved under the conditions that I have expressed, would be a victorious climax for Zionism and Israel.

Israel, as was proved in 1973,

was never more vulnerable or less secure than when its forces were stretched out between Suez and the Golan, without any regional or international legitimacy; and when it was in the embarrassing position of suppressing the national identity of another nation.

The protracted defense of our conquests in the Six Day War exacted a terrible price. In the 10 years after our victory, far more Israelis fell under enemy fire than in the pre-1967 decade.

This is the somber account of the Yom Kippur War, the War of Attrition, the Lebanon war and the continuing intifada.

The toll is bound to increase if the peace process collapses. Far from deterring other wars, our victory in 1967 was followed by three new wars, which ended without our achieving security.

The nearest criterion for comparison is the treaty with Egypt, which vastly reinforced Israel's logistic security. By holding Sinai for six years, Israel lost 3,000 of its men in an inevitable war. With the treaty, Israel loses no lives, and war is virtually inconceivable.

But far more is required from a treaty than its text. It demands a network of balances and limitations on the ground and a trusted monitoring apparatus.

Israeli lobbyists who are working in Washington to oppose American participation in monitoring a treaty with Syria on the Golan are carrying their partisanship to a point at which the national interest disappears from view.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

Syria has lost its disruptive power

AHARON LEVRAN

MIDDLE EAST experts have long contended that without Syria there can be no peace. They cite its impressive military arsenal and its ability to torpedo any settlement.

But Syria's disruptive capability has been significantly eroded.

In the past, this disruptive power focused mainly on Jordan, the PLO, and especially Lebanon. Jordan couldn't make any substantive move toward formalizing its de facto peace with Israel because of its profound apprehension about Damascus. The Syrian invasion of Jordan in September 1970 ousted Amman's policy making.

Similarly, the PLO was always attentive to its "Big Brother." For a long time, Syria's dominance of Lebanon and its physical control over a large proportion of the Palestinians, both in Syria and Lebanon, restricted the PLO's behavior.

All this has changed drastically. The PLO's signing of the Declaration of Principles marked a sharp departure. Although Damascus hated this Palestinian expression of independence, it did nothing but lament the breach in Arab solidarity.

Syria has been equally impotent in regard to the peace treaty with Jordan. While King Hussein needed time to get out from under the Syrian umbrella, the political outcome has been quite impressive.

First, the king concluded a formal peace treaty with Israel, although he could have sufficed with a non-belligerency accord. Sec-

ond, the fact that he wasn't afraid to depart from the principle that "every inch of Arab land is sacred" demonstrates not only his political maturity, but also his awareness that Syria can do very little against him or any other Arab player.

Thus, two of the central Arab players - and others on the fringes of the Middle East - today enjoy a

option against Israel, particularly since Damascus has realized it cannot achieve its long-coveted strategic parity with Jerusalem.

Thus, it is no wonder that Syria had to opt for joining the peace process, especially when the former US administration promised to "deliver" Israel.

When Syria itself hopes to win the assistance of the world's only

Damascus stands helpless, watching its neighbors shatter the Arab consensus

political freedom of action unimaginable just a few years ago. They don't fear going it alone and acting in accord with their perceived national interest.

Equally important, Syria now stands strategically helpless as it watches its neighbors shatter the Arab consensus and discard its guardianship.

WHY HAS this happened? And why has the Syrian threat to Israel diminished?

Objective circumstances is one answer. The world has changed. Syria's traditional patron, the Soviet Union, has disappeared from the stage, while Israel's patron, the US, has emerged as the sole superpower.

At the same time, the Americans' humiliating defeat of Iraq highlighted the futility of the war

superpower by taking part in the peace process, how seriously can its threats be perceived by the other Arabs? This is why Damascus is so low-key in its objections to the recent departures from Arab unity.

When I made this observation last month at an international seminar including Arab participants, one reaction was that Hafez Assad could still torpedo the peace process by eliminating Yasser Arafat, as he did with Bashir Gemayel in Lebanon in September 1982.

While there is nothing wrong with the removal of an arch-terrorist, such an act would prove self-defeating, since the blame would likely be laid at Assad's door, increasing his isolation and destroying his hopes of being removed from the US list of countries which

sponsor terrorism.

Another suggestion was that Assad could strengthen his alliance with Iran. But this is also a poor policy option, since nothing except nuisance value can be gained from associating with a pariah. And not even Iran dares challenge the enhanced US presence in its backyard.

Assad could also pressure Israel in Lebanon through its proxy, Hizbullah. But this has been going on for years. If Israel reacts more firmly than it has to date, it could be risky for Syria. Besides, increased Hizbullah activity in Lebanon will not dissuade other Arabs from joining the peace process.

Two striking conclusions may be drawn. First, Syria is a far less vital factor in the process than previously thought - and there's very little Assad can do about it. Second, and more important, Israel has far more leverage than imagined vis-à-vis Syria, and needn't bow to its territorial demands.

Any settlement, therefore, ought to reflect Syria's diminishing regional power.

Damascus could remain adamant in its opposition to Israel retaining the entire Golan. But if other Arabs abandon outdated territorial positions and Syria agrees to leaving the Heights, no harm will come to the "peace of the brave" or to Syria's dignity, if it follows suit.

The writer is a reserve brigadier-general and a strategic analyst.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOISE POLLUTION

Sir, - Though we now have a ministry of the environment trying to improve our "quality of life," the issue of noise pollution has attracted little attention.

At wedding celebrations, when the religious ceremony is over guests are invited to a festive meal with the happy prospect of meeting and chatting with old friends. However, too often they can barely hear their own voices, let alone those of their companions because they are drowned out by deafening noise created by some band of hired musicians.

May I suggest that when hosts hire bands, they should specify in the contract of hire that background music would be welcomed during the meal, provided the amplifiers are lowered whenever the host so requests.

It is now accepted that nonsmokers may be placed at risk by smokers in their vicinity. Similarly, the high-decibel level of weddings should be seen as a public health hazard, in terms of hearing loss, which undoubtedly affects young and old alike.

LUCIEN HARRIS

Jerusalem.

ISRAELI ARABS

Sir, - Noach Milgram's implication in his letter of October 31, "Legitimate question," that Israeli Arabs have remained neutral in our previous conflicts with our neighbors is totally false.

My kibbutz is situated in an area in which Arabs and Jews have lived in complete harmony for generations. The settlement of Ya'ara boasts a mixed population living in harmony and the village of Aramshé's people are like our own kin, attending our celebrations and sharing our grief. Many Arabs of both communities are proud members of the IDF and continue to volunteer in ever-increasing numbers.

I don't believe we are unique in this respect and anyone who thinks that nobody lives any further north than the suburbs of Haifa can come and see.

PETER MASSEY

Kibbutz Eilon, Western Galilee.

WOMEN AT WORK

Sir, - I agree wholeheartedly with Deborah Weissman ("Myth of females in conflict," November 9) that women do not find it hard to work together. During the three years I have worked here, I have watched hundreds of women enable each other to achieve personal and professional goals through our success teams. The Professional Women's Network has been a vehicle for them to build their own and each other's businesses and professions.

Women have an innate ability to empathize with others and therefore can cooperate and resolve conflicts with efficiency and compassion. Jewish women draw strength from their heritage of *ahavat Yisrael* (loving our fellow Jew) and *tikun olam* (perfecting the world).

The upcoming First Annual Jerusalem Businesswomen's Conference on November 21 at the Bible Lands Museum is a prime example of a group of established businesswomen advising others on how to succeed in the business world. I invite all women to participate in and benefit from the powerful energy of women working together.

ELANA ROZENMAN

Jerusalem.

"NEW" HISTORIANS

Sir, - I was delighted to read your editorial of November 4, "Targeting Scenes." Of late, our misguided "new" historians in Israel try and discredit our heroes of past generations.

My father was brought to Palestine by Trumpeldor who waded out the Jewish soldiers in Russia during and after the revolution. He, Trumpeldor, was a great hero and an inspiration to the new *halutzim*. How dismayed I was when I read in *The Jerusalem Post* not long ago that Trumpeldor too was discredited by "new" historians.

You have given me my faith back, as I see we have watchdogs in journalists as well. Thank you.

ZIPORAH SEGAL

Herziya.

ORIENT HOUSE

Sir, - The public humiliation we Israelis are being forced to endure regarding the operating of Orient House is beyond comprehension. We can hardly blame the "Palestinians" for this fiasco. A child will naturally test the authority figure, trying to see how far he can stretch the boundaries of acceptability. So too the Palestinians are keen to see how far they can go. Every infraction which goes unanswered by Israel brings them one step closer to delegitimizing united Jerusalem and one step closer to the fulfillment of their quest for a Palestinian state.

Foreign Minister Peres and Police Minister Shahal see nothing wrong with private unofficial visits to Faisal Hussein. How long will this ruse go on? A private visit to Faisal Hussein should be at his home. Any visit by any representative of a foreign country to Orient House must be deemed a political visit. We station police around Orient House and proceed to look the other way when a French representative pays a call. Is this how a government should function on sovereign soil? Where is our pride?

To think of Orient House as being anything other than an unofficial Palestinian foreign ministry is burying our head in the sand. Take the step that must be taken, and do it quickly: Close Orient House.

FERN DOBULER

Beit El Bet.

HILLARY CLINTON'S VISIT

Sir, - At the meeting with Hillary Rodham Clinton in Jerusalem on October 27, there were 15 Yale graduates, in addition to the Wellesley alumnae reported. In the spirit of the occasion, some of us networked in the cause of coexistence within Israel. Included were leaders of the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development, the Abraham Fund and Rotary's Inter-Community Understanding Committee. The First Lady wished us success.

AARON LEVIN,

President,

Yale Club of Israel

Kiryat Shmona.

The New America's aid cake

MOSHE ZAK

YITZHAK Rabin set off for Washington in search of a New Middle East, but he has found a New America.

Before his departure, Rabin received a reminder from Yasser Arafat that the Oslo agreement hadn't changed the aims of the PLO, and that the Middle East remains what it has always been.

Rabin had also registered what the Republican Party's sweep of the congressional elections signaled: Even if the new Congress doesn't cut aid to Israel, it will show little enthusiasm for financing the creation of a New Middle East. The New America has different priorities.

Over the past decade, the US has invested \$54 billion in consolidating the peace between Israel and Egypt. But it is doubtful the new Congress will regard this as a precedent for the entire Middle East.

The new Republican majority's goal is to reduce the budget deficit. Pouring more billions into the Middle East isn't the way to achieve this.

Even congressmen who have been persuaded by Israeli diplomats that terrorism is fed by the hunger and poverty prevalent in Gaza will find it hard to agree with ministers' optimistic forecasts that the billions needed to lift Gaza out of poverty can be raised around the world.

In a speech in Tel Aviv last week, Rabin said European countries have yet to contribute a cent to this objective. US congressmen elected on a platform of "charity begins at home" will not agree to

divert additional resources to the Middle East. Tackling poverty, crime, and unemployment in their own states heads their list of national priorities.

They feel uncomfortable when Israelis sign promissory notes to the Arabs which the US must redeem.

Israel can keep its share if it stops urging the US to subsidize the whole region

Though Israel has responded to Arafat's appeal and asked some wealthier countries in Latin America to give financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority, it was really just going through the motions and providing a sop to Arafat, who doesn't want to be exclusively dependent on the US.

But these contributions - if they do indeed materialize - will be mere window-dressing. They cannot obscure the fact that the US will have to bear the bulk of the burden. The New America is hesitant about doing so.

The US aid scenario applies equally to the other tracks in the political process.

It's no secret that one of the incentives for the Israel-Jordan peace treaty was Amman's desire for American aid. And the US is canceling Jordan's debt of several billion dollars.

With Syria, it isn't just the Golan issue which is impelling Hafez Assad to seek a settlement with

Israel, but also the hope of gaining American economic and technological assistance. Reports from Washington about possible changes in foreign aid policy have slowed down the pace of the Syrian-American discussions being handled by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

THE ISSUE of US economic aid to Israel is more complicated.

Various Israelis may talk about giving up the aid "to ease American political pressure." But this notion is totally invalid.

American pressure isn't a function of economic assistance. When Israel was receiving all of \$23m. a year, the US suspended that aid to force us to comply with UN Security Council resolutions calling for an end to the Jordan River development project. But since Israel has been getting \$3b. a year, the US hasn't used aid as a lever.

Immigration can be absorbed without tapping the available \$10b. in loans guaranteed by Washington. The financial cost of these loans is really too high, but the arrangement, symbolizing the depth of American support for immigration to Israel, is politically important.

Israel could get by without UJA donations, which are only a minor factor in our state budget. But the

UJA represents the link with the Jews of the Diaspora. It is a channel through which they can identify with Israel, and Israel can convey its views to most American Jews.

The same is true of American financial aid. The exceptionally high level of both economic and security assistance reflects Israel's political standing in Washington. The aid, visible to all, is an important contribution to Israel's deterrent weight. To our enemies contemplating a military adventure, it emphasizes the extent to which the US supports Israel.

US aid is an economic imperative in light of the enormous costs of the military deployment the agreements with Jordan and the PLO require. But it is also a political imperative, since our enemies could interpret any cut as an erosion of Israel's status in Washington.

Israel can keep its share of the American assistance "cake" provided it doesn't make the foolish mistake of trying to persuade the US to be equally generous to everyone in the Middle East.

The New America is ready to continue the existing level of direct aid to Israel. But once Israel gets included in the aid quota for the "New Middle East," its special status will be harmed. It will find that, in order to subsidize the economic and social turnaround in the region it is turning, it will have to be satisfied with a smaller slice of the cake for itself.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



Guilt of the gambler

MARK L. LEVINSON

THE greatest wealth of all, wrote William Saroyan, "is having so little that one must notice how much one has in having life itself."

There is an exhilaration in starting from nothing. In raising four walls on a rocky hilltop to proclaim a kibbutz. In smoothing a blank piece of paper and writing, "Chapter One." There's a purity to it.

It's said that compulsive gamblers seek such purity. If they have nothing, they feel they've atoned for everything. The slate is clean. The guilt is lifted, and a cleaned-out Saroyan or Dostoevsky can write again.

But the guilt returns. The fellow who founds the kibbutz will have to defend it, and he may never feel he showed all the courage he could, or all the mercy. He may wish to return to the pure beginning, to have nothing again.

Maybe it's a Jewish thing. Publicly at least, the only collective guilt that Arab conquests awaken in Arab spokesmen has to do with the conquests' incompleteness. When it comes to impurity of arms, the fault is laid on some renegade perpetrators, or on the climate the Zionists created.

So even when we have nothing, we Jews do have something: we have a particular moral sense. And

that in itself makes us feel guilty.

If we live up to that moral sense, we're guilty of a repellent superiority. If our moral sense isn't really superior, then we're guilty of unjustified arrogance.

If we admit we don't live up to our own moral code, then perhaps we will truly attain the purity of having nothing.

So in order to reach that state of grace, we will repudiate our moral

The cost of building a casino could be much more than money

standing along with our territorial conquests.

And we will build a casino.

NOT EVERYONE goes to a casino to lose everything. Not everyone is compulsive.

But the lights of Las Vegas are warning lights. Las Vegas winnings are so much less than losses, the difference pays for a whole neon city, with discounted air travel and cheap meals.

Casinos count on you to exceed your limit, to lose control. They encourage you to risk more than

you intended. In today's climate of privatization, would the Israeli government's proceeds from a casino be enough to offset the harm caused by such leeching of citizens' money?

What would we say to the tourist families who arrive full of Jewish pride, lose more than they budgeted, and leave angry with themselves and with their tempters? Are they likely to return?

If we build a casino, it will not be because of tourists' demands. Tourism is booming already without a casino.

Tourists complain about rudeness and rip-offs, not about lack of roulette wheels. Tourists come here for what we are compulsively trying to shed: the holy sites, which we are calling on the Arabs and the Vatican to claim at our expense; the beach, which we are sacrificing to skyscrapers; the Jewish people, who are rejecting their own specialness.

If we build a casino, it will be in order to lose the burdens that come with attempting to build an exemplary society.

But, like any gambler, we could lose more than we expected.

The writer is a technical and promotional writer in the software industry.

Plain talk about terror and tactics

SHLOMO GAZIT

THE nagging question of "Where is all this leading?" surfaced yet again following the attack near Netzarim. Again, there were the usual responses.

From right-wing circles came the clamor that the peace process with the Palestinians must be stopped right now. Signing the Oslo Agreement was a mistake from the outset, and one had better face up to it.

Only political wisdom and their reading of public opinion prevented these circles from demanding the reconquest and occupation of the Gaza Strip.

The left, posited the reverse, that every terrorist strike only proves the sin of occupation. The only course is to speed up total withdrawal from all Judea and Samaria and Gaza: no more military administration, no more army presence, and, of course, no more Israeli settlers.

Those somewhere in the middle support the peace process, but put the blame squarely on Yasser Arafat and his PLO. They aren't doing enough to thwart Palestinian terrorism.

There is a fourth voice, also

somewhere in between. It also supports the process, but adds that as long as the PLO isn't living up to its obligations and dealing with the terrorists, Israel's security services must do the job. They must pursue the terrorists into the autonomy zones, seize them and wipe them out clandestinely.

more so because peace is in sight.

We shall be confronting terror for many more years. Any agreed solution with the Palestinians will leave many of them frustrated and hate-ridden. A whole generation of those jailed, those who lost parents, brothers and friends in the struggle with Israel will not easily

With peace in sight, the momentum with the Palestinians must be kept up

LEADERS FROM all sectors of the political spectrum ought to be telling the nation one thing: "We have no decisive, absolute, immediate answer to the problem of terrorism."

Anyone who thinks terror can be eliminated with one smashing blow is laboring under a delusion and misleading others. But oppositionists, in the nature of things, bear no responsibility. Their proposals aren't put to the test.

We must speak plainly, the

forget their pain or agree to our existence.

Anyone who demands that Arafat act today, before an overall Israeli-Palestinian political settlement that he can present to his people as a victory, is asking the impossible.

Arafat can only demand an end to terror if he can come to his people with a political success that neutralizes the justification for continued Palestinian struggle.

Anyone who thinks Israel must

The battle of Bar-Ilan Street

YOSEF GOELL

CLOSING Bar-Ilan Street in northern Jerusalem to traffic on Shabbat is one of the major goals of the haredi and religious parties.

The street is part of the major traffic artery which connects the entrance to the capital from the Tel Aviv highway and Highway No. 1. This new arterial road links secular neighborhoods and the Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus.

The problem with Bar-Ilan Street is that it also runs smack through the middle of a heavily populated haredi neighborhood.

In the 1970s, after militant haredim failed in their violent attempts to prevent Sabbath traffic on the road to the large Ramot neighborhood, they turned their energies to trying to close down Bar-Ilan Street.

Mayor Elud Olmert, who never actually promised the haredim he would close the street but is nonetheless dependent on their support in the municipal coalition, set up a committee to study the situation.

Last week, the committee head, Israel TV moderator Eliezer Strum, leaked that he had unanimous support on the committee for a proposal to close Bar-Ilan Street for several hours during prayer times on Friday evenings and Shabbat. In exchange, Jaffa Road, which is a major but one-way thoroughfare, would be opened to two-way traffic on Shabbat.

Publication of the report result-

ed in a general howling storm - indicating that not only was there major opposition to the proposal among secular residents, but that Strum's supposedly unanimous support on the committee had evaporated. And justly so.

A SURVEY in Kol Ha'ir found that 40 per cent of the city's residents said they would be inconvenienced by such a closure. It would also undermine a foundation of the shaky status quo on religious-secular differences: that major traffic arteries are never closed for religious reasons.

The issue also puts to the test what haredi politicians will insist on when they have the power to impose their will.

It may indicate that the haredim will ride roughshod over secular interests and sensibilities if they do gain such power. This is no formula for peaceable coexistence.

In Jerusalem, such a totally one-sided approach could induce more young Jerusalemites to leave the city. It could also increase the determination of secular residents to fight for their rights - violently, if need be.

In such a situation, haredi leaders should be aware of the basic vulnerability of their communities and constituents. If the path of confrontation and violence is chosen, they will be the major losers,

both in Jerusalem and countryside.

The alternative is to work hard for accommodation and compromise. These alone can make for peaceable coexistence between peoples and communities with very different world views.

But accommodation can only work if it is mutual.

One of the problems in Jerusalem is that haredi and even mainline Orthodox rabbis and politicians find it virtually impossible to concede that freedom of movement on Shabbat is as central to the lives of secular Jews as is prayer to the religious.

Hence their feeling that closing Bar-Ilan Street or any other thoroughfare, or even forbidding all Shabbat traffic would constitute no hardship for secular Israelis.

They are wrong. The partial closure of streets in haredi neighborhoods is already a great inconvenience. To the few non-haredi residents of such areas, it is a great hardship.

But bending over backwards to accommodate haredi sensibilities on their turf isn't unwarranted, as long as it is reciprocal.

A meaningful compromise would trade off the closure of Bar-Ilan Street in exchange for permitting a full bus service in all non-haredi parts of Jerusalem.

The writer comments on public affairs.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1994

Tomatomania's just a distraction

TOMATOES being much more immediately pertinent to people's lives than production inputs, wage-cost spirals, or the balance of payments, it is not surprising that they grabbed the headlines.

But the tomatomania is just a distraction from the real issues. After all, just as not all of us are rich enough to afford papaya, and so do without, most people will do without tomatoes if their price exceeds a certain level. The much-maligned market economics also dictates that if demand for a product massively exceeds its supply, existing suppliers will produce more or new suppliers will enter the field. Anyway, we can live without tomatoes.

Despite the sensationalist focus on housing and vegetable prices, the real worries on the economic horizon are elsewhere. To start with, inflation with both these elements stripped out is running at a double figure annualized clip. Almost every other element of the CPI is growing at a double figure annualized rate, driven by higher production inputs, higher wages in the public sector, and cheap money (yes, real interest rates of 1% are low).

While there are indications that money supply-growth may be moderating, as is consumer demand, the Treasury and the Bank of Israel face difficult times ahead (the former, especially, with elections not too far away). If they continue with the course they have charted so far, raising interest rates and resisting calls for a devaluation, and the shekel does not budge from its current level, corporate profitability will plunge and the economy may be tipped into recession. But giving in to the devaluation lobby and/or failure to tighten monetary policy will allow inflation to rise further, making the pain even greater when the problem is tackled.

COMMENT
NEIL COHEN

It will take a brave government, but cutting public expenditures and opening up protected sectors of the economy may be the only economic solutions. Politically, though, the government may be in a no-win situation.

Plunge on the TASE

Investors in the local market will be shaking their heads and nursing their losses. Confidence has receded as investors have fled stocks and mutual funds for the safety of bank savings plans. Surging inflation and the prospect of another rise in interest rates not surprisingly has spooked many investors. Psychologically, at least, the imminence of the imposition of the capital gains tax has further unnerved the market.

From a technical standpoint, the market seems in no mood to bounce. On a more fundamental level, company profits have been better than many feared, though this has been largely a function of the absence of losses from securities' portfolios, which have already washed through companies' accounts in previous quarters. While many have made top-line gains, there has been continued pressure on margins, evidence in many cases of the impact of an overvalued currency and commodity price rises.

While the market has proved willing to reward good stories - Lannet (traded in New York), for example, where evidence of a successful turnaround has resulted in the share price doubling in the last few weeks - many falls have been indiscriminate, and investors with strong nerves and the ability to take a medium- or long-term view will find some genuine bargains, if not at the current level then cer-

tainly when the Mishnanim hits 160.

The Dollar

Readers who took this column's advice to buy the dollar three weeks ago (October 28) will be sitting pretty. The dollar then traded at \$1.637 to the British pound, DM 1.4987 and ¥96.95 yen. When we went to press yesterday evening, those rates were \$1.5740, DM 1.5487, and ¥98.15 yen, pretty impressive moves for a three-week period.

As we wrote then, the dollar was falling because everyone was selling, rather than as a result of convincing economic fundamentals. All it took was someone to step up to the plate and buy the US currency, and there was a fair chance that sentiment would turn around. So it proved. The US Federal Reserve's well-timed intervention and perceived support of the currency by Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen turned sentiment around, and the dollar drew further strength from the greater than perceived hike in short term rates on Tuesday. Critically, perhaps, the dollar's new found strength persuaded the Japanese not to desert the Treasury Bill market.

The key question is what now? In the short term, the dollar may run into some profit taking but otherwise looks pretty secure. Further out, much will revolve around the perception and performance of the bond market. If investors take the view that inflation remains under control and like the look of an 8% yield on the long bond, money will flow back into the US and the dollar will strengthen further. The currency markets are now not the one-way bet they have so often been recently, but if the Fed's action on Tuesday really is the indication it was meant to be, then the dollar bulls may take heart.

'High shekel hurting profits'

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE shekel's devaluation rate has been trailing behind higher inflation and interest rates recently, threatening the competitiveness and profitability of the private sector. Treasury director general Aharon Fogel said yesterday.

In an Israel Radio interview, Fogel noted that the economy's main problem is higher-than-expected inflation. As a result "inflation and interest rates are higher than the [devaluation] track of the exchange rate," said Fogel. "Up until two to three weeks ago, the situation was good, competitiveness was preserved, and profitability levels brought us to great accomplishments," he said. "Lately, the ratio [between inflation and the exchange rate] has begun to be undermined, but this is a temporary situation."

He suggested that the shekel's exchange rate could be adjusted within the "crawling peg," which provides for fluctuations of five percent above and below its midpoint.

It currently assumes an annual devaluation rate of 6%.

Fogel warned that a one-time devaluation would only exacerbate inflation. Instead, efforts should focus on bringing inflation down by means of the Treasury's proposed package deal to cut significantly the next cost-of-living wage adjustment.

The Treasury recommends that employers and the Histadrut agree on a cut of about 3% in next February's cost of living wage adjustment.

To preserve the workers' purchasing power, the government

has agreed to reduce the new health tax by 1.5 percentage points and the National Insurance Institute employee taxes by 0.5 percentage points.

At an Israel Management Center seminar yesterday, Fogel said the economy's fundamentals were good.

If the cost-of-living package deal is accepted, the budget goals are implemented, and deficit levels are maintained, "we will even feel the improvement," he said.

Fogel rejected the industrialists' arguments in support of a devaluation, saying that in every country economic fluctuations are part of market behavior and do not reflect a trend.

"The industrialists are not in distress and current figures reflect that fact," Fogel said. "Industrialists are worried only from their expectations for the future, and it would be a mistake to hurry and take the step of devaluation as long as other steps have not been exhausted."

Budget Director David Brodet said October's Consumer Price Index shows signs of improvement regarding inflation.

He noted that for the second month in a row, basic inflation - excluding volatile housing, fruit and vegetable and government-controlled prices - and housing price increases have moderated. Should this continue, the economy will improve, Brodet added.

Fogel defended the decision to tax the stock market and rejected criticism that it will bring in far less than the estimated NIS 500 million in revenues.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hapoalim, BZW plan joint fund: Bank Hapoalim and Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW), the investment bank of Barclays Bank plc, are examining the possibility of establishing a joint mutual fund, Hapoalim announced yesterday. The two banks also plan to cooperate in the field of foreign securities.

First International hikes interest: First International Bank announced it is raising interest rates on dollar-linked saving plans. The bank is offering 8% on five-year plans, 7.2% interest on three-year plans, and 7.2% on two-year plans.

Chambers of Commerce hosting Egyptians: The Israel Chambers of Commerce is presently hosting a delegation of Egyptian businessmen. A draft proposal for a cooperative agreement between the two chambers was presented by the Egyptian delegation. The signing ceremony will take place in Cairo within a few months.

IEC fleet gets Pazonats: Paz announced yesterday it has completed the installation of 2,000 Pazonat units in the IEC fleet of lead-free and diesel vehicles. The system allows drivers to charge IEC automatically when pumping gas at any one of 220 Paz stations. Paz recently announced it would install the computerized system in the IDF fleet of officers' vehicles, after having won the IDF tender.

Israel, India standardize quality: The Israel Managers Forum and the Indian Managers Institute have signed an agreement to standardize quality management in the two countries. Top priority has been given to assisting the Indian group in creating a standards and quality center.

Electronic messaging solution: Local Oracle representatives John Bryce and Bezek Gold will cooperate on providing electronic messaging on phone lines, compatible with international standards X400 and X435. The solution will be based on Isocor products, represented by John Bryce, and AT&T EasyLink, represented by Bezek Gold.

WORLD BRIEFS

BCCI victims accept \$1.8b. deal: Victims of collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have accepted a \$1.8 billion compensation deal from Abu Dhabi, its majority owner, liquidators Touche Ross said yesterday.

Creditors immediately called for a payout by next July, the fourth anniversary of the bank's closure, following the world's biggest ever banking fraud.

In a long-awaited announcement, the liquidators resisted declining to say how much would be paid and when, owing to uncertainty over BCCI's assets.

BCCI, which once had \$24b. of assets and operations in 71 countries, was shut down by central bank authorities in 1991 with liabilities of over \$10b. amid allegations of fraud, money-laundering and negligence. *Reuters*

Renault share jump: Shares in French car maker Renault surged on frenzied demand from large institutional investors yesterday when they were listed on the bourse for the first time.

Trading in the shares was briefly suspended minutes after getting under way after heavy buying drove the stock against the 10 percent limit allowed by the bourse.

After trading resumed, Renault shares rose to a session high of 187 francs - a 22-franc premium on the price paid by small investors and an 11-franc premium on the price set for institutional investors. *Reuters*

Volkswagen profit up sharply: Volkswagen AG, Europe's biggest car maker, said yesterday its earnings improved sharply in the first nine months of 1994 and it hoped to at least break even for the full year.

The company said in an interim report its group result for January to September improved to a loss of \$46.95m. from a huge \$985m. loss in the comparable 1993 period. *Reuters*

Clal Retail Chains reports NIS 2m. third-quarter loss

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CLAL Retail Chains has announced third quarter net losses of NIS 2 million, compared with a net loss of NIS 99,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 41.1m. from NIS 30.6m. Net losses for the nine-month period were NIS 7.1m., compared with a net loss of NIS 1.3m. for the same period last year. Revenues rose to NIS 105.4m. from NIS 71.6m.

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• **Hypershuk**, which is held by Clal Retail, reported third quarter net losses of NIS 1.9m., compared with NIS 1m. during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 113.3m. from NIS 94.9m. For the three-quarter period, the company suffered a net loss of NIS 6.3m., compared with a net gain of NIS 1m.

• **Clal Insurance Company** reported a 61 percent growth in net profits for the third quarter to NIS 13.2m. from NIS 8.2m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits for the first nine months rose slightly to NIS 27.7m. from NIS 27.5m. In the nine-month period, profits from life insurance activities rose 43% to NIS 57.5m. from NIS 40.1m.

The rise in profits from life insurance activities was partly due to

the contribution of Hassneh and Zur Shamir insurance portfolios.

In the third quarter, total premiums increased 12% to NIS 183.49m. from NIS 163.37m.

In elementary non-life insurance, Clal Insurance reported a 47% rise in net profits to NIS 3.61m.

In the first nine months of the year the company's profits from elementary insurance fell 80% to NIS 4.72m. from NIS 23.27m.

The company blamed the drop on the automobile insurance sector, which has suffered from an erosion in tariffs and a 30% rise in stolen vehicles.

• **Poizat Industries** posted a drop in third quarter net profits to NIS 4.2m. from NIS 4.8m. for the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 128.5m. from NIS 115.9m., while earnings per share fell to NIS 0.08 from NIS 0.09.

Net profits for the first nine months of the year went up to NIS 15.3m. from NIS 14.5m.

Revenues increased to NIS 373m. from NIS 357m., while earnings per share rose 6% to NIS 0.31 from NIS 0.29.

• **Taste of Israel** has reported a decrease in third quarter net profits to NIS 310,000 from NIS 643,000 in the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 11.6m. from NIS 9m., while earnings per share declined to NIS 0.06 from NIS 0.14.

Net profits for the first three quarters fell to NIS 1.14m.

from NIS 2.4m. Revenues went up to NIS 33.4m. from NIS 27.5m., while earnings per share declined to NIS 0.21 from NIS 0.55.

The company attributed the drop in net profits to investments in the company's portfolio and a NIS 3.5m. investment in Burger Ranch.

• **Electra (Israel)** has announced a drop in net profits to NIS 3.6m. from NIS 3.48m. during the same period last year.

Quarterly earnings per share rose to NIS 1.20 from NIS 1.18. Nine-month net profits fell to NIS 11m. from NIS 11.1m.

Revenues increased to NIS 378.6m. from NIS 363m., while earnings per share dropped to NIS 3.64 from NIS 3.77.

• **Aryt Industries** has announced a decrease in third quarter net profits to NIS 78,000 from NIS 441,000.

Revenues went up to NIS 24.7m. from NIS 13m., while earnings per share fell to NIS 0.01 from NIS 0.05.

The company reported net losses of NIS 488,000 for the nine-month period, compared with NIS 175,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues jumped to NIS 61m. from NIS 36.3m.

The company attributed the decrease to a sharp rise in sales orders and deliveries during the final month of the quarter.

• **Kitan** has reported a rise in net profits to NIS 12.3m. from NIS 10.1m. in the previous year.



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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

• The US Federal Reserve raised its Federal Funds and discount rates by 75bps, 25bps more than expected. The market consensus is that another 50bps hike will be made at the Jan. 31 policy meeting. However, there is a reasonable chance that the Dec. 20 policy meeting will decide to raise rates. The US dollar and the US T-bond market rallied on the news, but have failed to sustain the advance. The move against the DM was small, and we expect the US\$ to trade in a DM1.53 - 1.59 range. The long T-bond yield should trade between 8.00% and 8.20%. As long as the US equity market holds, the margin influence of the US should fade.

• The German bund market was not calmed by the 75bps rate hike, and the equity market is also uncertain, looking to bunds for direction. However, there is little selling pressure, and our clients are looking to buy Deutsche Babcock.

• We suggested last week that the short-term outlook for the UK FT-SE 100 index and the UK gilt market was positive, and both have made significant gains. The Dec long gilt future has risen over 102, and we expect consolidation. The 100 index ran into selling resistance once it got to 3155, but there is strong support at 3130. We believe that the current rally will develop further after some consolidation. Our clients have been buying Unilever and are showing interest in BOC Group.

• In the Asia-Pacific Region, the Hong Kong market avoided any sell-off in reaction to the higher-than-expected US rate rise, and could advance further to resistance at 9600, though we are not confident that this seasonal rally will be sustained. Singapore remains trapped in the 2300 - 2400 range, but will outperform regional stock markets. Kuala Lumpur enjoyed a good rally from oversold this week, and while the outlook for 1995 is good, short-term fears of domestic interest rate hikes will restrain the market.

• Gold bullion price support at \$385/oz. has held, but the market is capped at \$387.50/oz. Japanese profit-takers are reported to have completed selling, but we look for producer selling on a rally above \$387.50.

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SITUATIONS VACANT ADVERTISEMENTS

Equal Opportunity in Employment Law, 1988

The law forbids discrimination in the advertising and filling of job vacancies, on grounds of sex, or marital or parental status, except where this is dictated by the nature of the work.

All job advertisements in The Jerusalem Post should be regarded as complying with the provisions of the law.

TEACHERS

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH & YIDDISH for adults, evening hours, Tel Aviv, Netanya & Haifa. Tel. 177-0227.

SHARON AREA

DWELLINGS



"GOOD INVESTMENT": 3 room apartment in Shikma Hamlet, \$165,000.

"MUST SELL": 2 room unit in Carmel Netanya (Mediterranean Gardens), \$180,000.

"LOVELY COTTAGE": well located in Netanya. Only \$195,000.

"GREAT HAIRISIM": 5 room duplex facing sea, \$200,000.

"SEASONS HOTEL": Luxury 3 room unit. Not in rental pool. \$295,000.

ANGLO-SAXON
REAL ESTATE AGENCY LTD
33 Dizengoff St.
Tel. 09-617616, 824802, 625684



\$220,000: SPACIOUS, 4 room apartment, high floor with lovely view.

\$550,000: LUXURIOUS, large, brand new, master-built home, in prestigious area. Excellent value for money!

\$620,000: 4 bedroom home with large basement, in cul-de-sac.

\$665,000: Your Dream House. Awarded Youth Words cannot describe this ultra-modern home, with everything of the best - MUST VIEW!

ANGLO-SAXON
141 AHUZA ST. RA'ANANA
Tel. 09-454133/454336

CHOICE VILLAS AND PENTHOUSES for sale in Herzliya Pituah, Kfar Shimon, and Tel Aviv. Ram Real Estate, Tel. 685611.

RENTALS

HERZLIYA PITUAH! 2 & 4 room apartments + villas. Short-term rentals. Fully equipped. Tel. 09-5468920.

HERZLIYA PITUAH! Beautifully furnished house, air-conditioned, 1254, \$2000. "Nirvana" Real Estate Tel. 09-5468920.

FOR RENT IN HERZLIYA PITUAH: lovely villa near the sea. Shimon (Malden) Tel. 09-570678.

(1) HERZLIYA CENTER, NEW, 6 luxurious rooms; (2) huge duplex, 6 + roof. Tel. 09-540669, 09-545522.

VILLA on the sea in Herzliya Pituah, 4 bedrooms + furnished, \$2,150. Tel. 09-622616, 09-480233.

VILLA IN HERZLIYA PITUAH, excellent location, Bayit Vegan, Tel. 09-580349/09-571391.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, 3 rooms, single house. Tel. 09-587461.

NETANYA - NITZA OVER SEA, luxury, unfurnished, 4 rooms, long-term. Marlene Kline Tel. 09-540715.

RA'ANANA, 3 bedroom apartment, fitted closets/carpets, parking, elevator, double facilities. Tel. 09-612835.

SALES



Sharon Hotel
Herzliya Pituah
Tel. 09-572383
REAL ESTATE AGENCY Fax. 09-572657

* Herzliya Pituah - Unique, sea facing, duplex penthouse, terrace view of Merina, and separate apartment. Exclusive to Evergreen.

* Cliff Towers - Herzliya Pituah. Exclusive apartment for sale. Perfect condition. \$950,000.

* Herzliya Pituah - for rent. Family villa, pretty garden. \$2,300.

HERZLIYA center, 3 lovely + comfortable, American style. Tel. 09-539418.

NETANYA - luxurious penthouse, 6 rooms + balcony. Sea view. Excellent location. Immaculate. Tel. 09-541035, NS.

TWO, 2 ROOMED apartments on upper floor for sale at the Seasons Hotel, Netanya. (1) overlooking pool, sea-view; (2) facing north, with two bedrooms. Tel. 09-501555. REF. AJC

For Sale in Netanya PENTHOUSE
of 200 sq.m., single flat on roof, one L-shaped veranda of over 160 sq.m., storeroom, and covered parking. Asking price: \$430,000. Tel. 09-630470 (day); 09-494770 (even).

NETANYA, 22 HARAV KOOK, 5 rooms, large and magnificent, 7th floor, facing the sea, \$528,000. Tel. 09-622747.

HERZLIYA, spacious 5 + roof, \$275,000. Shai Agnon, Tel. 09-505451.

NETANYA, 22 Rav Kook St., double carport, second floor, \$250,000. Tel. 09-622773.

NETANYA, Rav Kook St., near the sea, 4 well-arranged rooms, second floor, Tel. 09-332967.

RA'ANANA, very large penthouse, good location, serious only, \$515,000. Tel. 09-443476, 09-458749.

RA'ANANA, 6, 4th floor, luxurious penthouse, quiet, exclusive, many improvements. Tel. 09-424388, 09-501808.

FOR SALE IMMEDIATELY: 4-5 rooms, good location in Ra'anana. No Agents Tel. 09-614511.

VILLA IN HERZLIYA PITUAH, excellent location + swimming pool. Bayit Vegan, Tel. 09-580349/09-571391.

RAMAT HASHARON WEST, villa, 5 rooms, one level, excellent location. Tel. 09-583381.

RA'ANANA, unique home, view, garden, 200+ sq.m., 5.5 floor, spacious, luxurious + sea view. Tel. 09-553351.

RAMAT HASHARON/HERZLIYA BORDEN, 5.5 floor, spacious, luxurious + sea view. Tel. 09-553351.

SERVICES

BUSINESS

TAL BUSINESS and Office Services will serve as your base + representation plus office space for meetings. Tel. 09-555551.

SITS. VAC.

OFFICE STAFF

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY with good typing skills, mother-tongue English for telephone import company. Applecat Ltd., POB 2288, Ra'anana.

SECRETARY, office management, English mother-tongue + German preferred, 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Ramat Hasharon. Tel. 09-540243.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

LIVE-IN for all housework, good conditions, Herzliya Pituah. Tel. 09-602178 Fidy and Saturday only, 09-575525.

WANTED FOR HOUSEHOLD without young children in Herzliya Pituah, live-in housekeeper including cooking and cleaning, salary \$600. Tel. 09-574783.

LIVE-IN AU PAIR, for baby in Herzliya Pituah. Tel. 09-564489 or 09-564242.

HERZLIYA, live-in housekeeper, small family, separate apartment. Tel. 09-570224 (evenings) or 09-543033 (office).

MAN NEEDED, live-in, for housekeeping in Herzliya. Tel. 09-552113.

REQUIRED LIVE-IN couple in Casarea for maintenance and cooking, with recommendations. Tel. 09-558233, 09-558321, 09-3529176.

HERZLIYA, Au pair (possible live-in) for housekeeping + 3 children, starting in December. Tel. 09-308083.

FRIENDLY AND RESPONSIBLE PERSON for live-in housekeeping and childcare. Tel. 09-548685 Edu or Romi

LOOKING FOR A PLEASANT FILIPINA, live-out, to five and a half days a week, 5 hours. Tel. 09-552334.

SAMILL FAMILY IN HERZLIYA needs live-in female for housework + separate quarters. Tel. 09-570224(n), 09-543033(w).

HAIFA & NORTH

DWELLINGS

RENTALS

VILLA, FURNISHED, + clinic, large rooted balcony, \$1,000, Kfar Tabor. Tel. 09-563989, 09-788015.

SALES

DOMICILE
Laurie Blisberg
35 Sd. Hanassi, Haifa
Tel. 04-311060,
Tel./Fax. 04-387543

Quiet, Central and Private
Near Shohamat Hacarmel, 3 rooms (85 sq.m.) with easy access, separate entrance, a charming garden and lots of atmosphere.

TIVON, VERY SPECIAL, new house, 210 sq.m. + terrace, 550m plot. Tel. 04-9630104.

BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED 3-ROOM APARTMENT, central, quiet, low steps. Exclusive, SZAMOSI GOTTLIB Real Estate Ltd. Tel. 04-332434-5.

SOUTHERN COAST

DWELLINGS

RENTALS

ASHKELON-AFRIDAR, near to beach, lovely, furnished house with garden, 4 rooms. Tel. 09-5220732.

ABROAD

DWELLINGS

RENTALS

LONDON - Flats, houses, rooms for long/short let. Tel. 09-9223043, London-0044-71-4381111- RENTHOME

FURNISHED QUEENS HOUSE, 8 MONTHS ONLY, January - August '95. All appliances, kitchen, possible car. Tel. 09-54775.

EXCHANGE

WANTED: 2-3 bedrooms in Jerusalem, April - May 1995, for Santa Monica 3-bedroom condo. Tel. 09-522053.

WHERE TO STAY

RED & BREAKFAST: kosher home, heart of Jewish community, Beverly Hills area. Tel. 310-567205.

SITS. VAC.

GENERAL

SALES REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED abroad for line of prestigious cosmetics for export. Tel. 09-5107085.

Sampras stays alive

FRANKFURT (AP) - Top-ranked Pete Sampras rallied from a set down to defeat Stefan Edberg yesterday and stay alive at the IBM/ATP Tour World Championship, while Andre Agassi became the first to advance to the semifinals by beating Michael Chang.

Sampras beat Edberg 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), while Agassi raised his record to 2-0 with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over the fellow American.

Sergi Bruguera also advanced, by beating fellow Spaniard Alberto Berasategui 6-3, 6-2. Both Agassi and Bruguera are 2-0 and their match today will decide the winner of their group.

"It's great to get into the semis and have a legitimate shot at winning it. My confidence is as high as it has ever been," said Agassi, who won the inaugural event here in 1990.

Agassi has jumped to No. 2 in the world after bouncing back from wrist surgery by winning the US Open and 21 out of his last 22 matches.

Sampras, the No. 1 in the world, lost to Boris Becker in his opening match and needed to beat Edberg to retain hopes of advancing to the semifinals.

For one set, it seemed that Edberg would cause Sampras to make an early exit.

But Sampras raised his game and once he broke the Swede for a 4-2 lead in the second set, he took command. Sampras never lost his serve again and closed out the match after one hour, 55 minutes.

"He doesn't have any weaknesses anymore," said Edberg, a former No. 1 who has slipped to No. 8.

Edberg dropped to 1-1 and will play Becker (2-0) in his last match today for a place in the last four, while Sampras (1-1) meets Goran Ivanisevic (0-2).

Because of Edberg's defeat, even Ivanisevic retains a slim hope of making the last four, although he looked virtually eliminated after his loss to the Swede Wednesday.

The \$3 million tournament is limited to the eight top-ranked players under a two-group round-



STILL NO. 1 - Pete Sampras serves to Stefan Edberg during the ATP Tour in Frankfurt yesterday.

robin format. The top two finishers from each group advance to the semifinals.

Sampras, who won the 1991 tournament, allowed Edberg only one point in the first three games. But the Swede found his touch in the fifth game and broke back.

Edberg then got on a roll, broke for 4-3 and closed out the set with an ace.

"Before I knew it, he won four straight games. He started returning better. But I told myself not to panic and to stay in there," Sampras said.

"I was down on myself after that first set but I got my spirits up again."

Neither player could break

Grobbelaar back in Britain for soccer action

LONDON (AP) - It may not be the most attractive game on the schedule. But Southampton's Premier League match against Arsenal tomorrow will get the most attention because of one man.

Bruce Grobbelaar.

The 37-year-old Zimbabwean goalkeeper is at the center of a bribery scandal and faces a life ban and even a jail sentence if allegations that he took money to deliberately let in goals are proved.

After the allegations were made in a tabloid newspaper, which used secretly taped conversations as evidence, the English Football Association charged Grobbelaar with bribery as well as bringing the game into disrepute.

Two English police forces also are investigating the allegations while Grobbelaar has 14 days to answer the FA's charges.

The "keeper returned to England yesterday after starring in Zimbabwe's African Nations Cup victory over Zaire in Harare last Sunday.

He is likely to get a friendly welcome from the Southampton fans at the Dell tomorrow. But the Arsenal followers almost certainly will greet him with derisive chants.

Grobbelaar said he believed the chants would be more joking than anything. "And while his lawyers deal with the bribery allegations, he will concentrate on trying to stop Arsenal scoring."

"All I ever do is play football for the teams I play football for, and I have never let anybody down on the football field," Grobbelaar said during the flight from Harare.

During his time with Liverpool, his previous club, he helped the team win 13 titles in as many seasons. He gained the reputation of being a brilliant, yet flamboyant "keeper who sometimes is guilty of amazing blunders."

Southampton, which has the second worst goals conceded record in the Premier League - 26 in 14 games - will need to have Grobbelaar at his best against Arsenal.

which is on the climb after a sluggish start to the campaign.

Standings leader Newcastle, which has a two-point lead over defending titlist Manchester United, visits lowly Wimbledon while United hosts improving Crystal Palace.

Newcastle, spurred by 14 goals from Andy Cole and 11 from Robert Lee, is the leading scorer with 31 goals in 14 games and Wimbledon's leaky defense has let in 24.

Manchester United has leapedfrogged Blackburn and Nottingham Forest in recent weeks on the back of victories over its main rivals. Its last performance was a 5-0 thumping of cross city rival Manchester City in which Ukrainian winger Andrei Kanchelskis scored three times.

Palace, promoted this season from Division One, has moved up to 10th after shutout victories over Ipswich, Leicester and Everton, the last three teams.

Blackburn, third in the standings, travels to Ipswich tomorrow while fourth place Liverpool meets its cross city neighbor, Everton, on Monday. That will be Everton's first game with Jody Royle in charge as manager.

Leicester will try to improve its lowly position by beating Manchester City at home on Sunday.

If the last three teams all win, that puts enormous pressure on managers Aston Villa, which is fourth from last and travels tomorrow to meet a Tottenham team now under the guidance of Gerry Francis.

Francis moved this week to White Hart Lane after resigning as manager of Queens Park Rangers. Former Rangers midfielder Ray Wilkins has returned to Loftus Road as player-manager and his first job will be to try and inspire a home victory over Leeds.

In other Premier League games tomorrow, Norwich visits Coventry, Chelsea goes to fifth-place Nottingham Forest and Sheffield Wednesday hosts West Ham.

Rose still determined to return to baseball

NEW YORK (AP) - Baseball legend Pete Rose is a patient guy. He's waited this long to get back into baseball. He can wait a little longer. Or a lot longer, if that's what it takes.

The deal when Rose was barred from Major League Baseball for life in 1989, was that he could apply to the commissioner for rein-

statement after one year. He was otherwise occupied the next year, in prison for tax evasion. Now that he's available to apply, there is no commissioner. You don't write a letter like that beginning: "To whom it may concern."

"Our philosophy is to let baseball get its house back in order," Rose said Wednesday, referring to

the continuing labor dispute that ended the season prematurely this year. Acting commissioner "Bud Selig's got more on his mind than getting a letter from me," Rose said.

Rose knows that reinstatement would mean almost certain induction into the Hall of Fame. He views that as his just due. "Without sounding arrogant," he said, "I know the player I was and you know the player I was. I was the biggest thing in baseball. I sold the game for 25 years."

His 4,256 hits - more than any player in history - are eloquent testimony to his accomplishment. The suspension for gambling is a cloud that hangs permanently over the record.

Rose said his betting was exaggerated. "I paid a lot more in lawyer fees than I ever lost in gambling," he said.

"I think today I am the best ambassador baseball has. The people who run baseball don't want me around, but I've got a nightly forum for two hours. I don't badmouth the game. The game has been good to me. I love the game."



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upon his receipt of the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa
and acknowledges his contribution to health-care services, his commitment to the special needs of the disadvantaged, the elderly and the disabled, and his exceptional accomplishments as public leader, administrator and advocate in world health-care issues

Dr. Avishay Braverman, President

Australian cricketers going all out vs. England

HOBART, Australia (Reuter)

The Australian XI chosen to play England in a four-day match in Hobart starting today will treat the encounter like a Test match, Australian cricket coach Bobby Simpson said yesterday.

"We're treating it like a sixth Test match," Simpson said, setting the tone for the game, the visiting side's last before play begins in Brisbane on November 25 in the first of five Ashes Tests.

Simpson, coach of the Test side, will be in charge over the next few days of 11 players on the fringe of Test selection, several of whom know that a good performance in Hobart could win them a place in the Brisbane Test.

They face an England side keen to bounce back from its four-wicket defeat at the hands of New South Wales in Newcastle this week. The visitors will also field players keen to secure a Test spot. It has all the ingredients of a

hard-fought encounter and Simpson guaranteed his side would be giving no quarter. "We'll be playing it as tough as we can," he said.

"It will be a Test of our youngsters' integrity and temperament and it will give us a chance to look at them in a tougher environment than they will be used to in Sheffield cricket."

England captain Michael Atherton was also looking forward to the toughest encounter his side will have faced on its tour so far.

"After a month of warm-up games, now we're ready for a bigger game and this match has the added spice of being against players with a lot to prove," he said.

English batsman Alec Stewart, who fractured a finger early in the tour, has been declared fit and will open in Hobart. But it is not yet known if England will rest batsmen Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick, both certain to play in Brisbane.

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Moorer hanging up his gloves...for now

DETROIT (AP) — Michael Moorer, who lost his heavyweight titles to George Foreman November 5, talks about retiring but it seems to be only talk.

Moorer told The Associated Press in a telephone interview yesterday that he will take some time off from boxing, but that he wants to become heavyweight champion again.

"We already have a rematch signed with Foreman," said John Davimos, Moorer's manager. "George will have one other fight and then we'll get the title back."

Moorer said Tuesday night on WJR-AM in Detroit that his loss to Foreman was the perfect opportunity to retire after just turning 27.

"The loss probably makes it easier to get away," Moorer said. "I don't have to stay in because I'm heavyweight champion. I don't have to worry about pleasing the people."

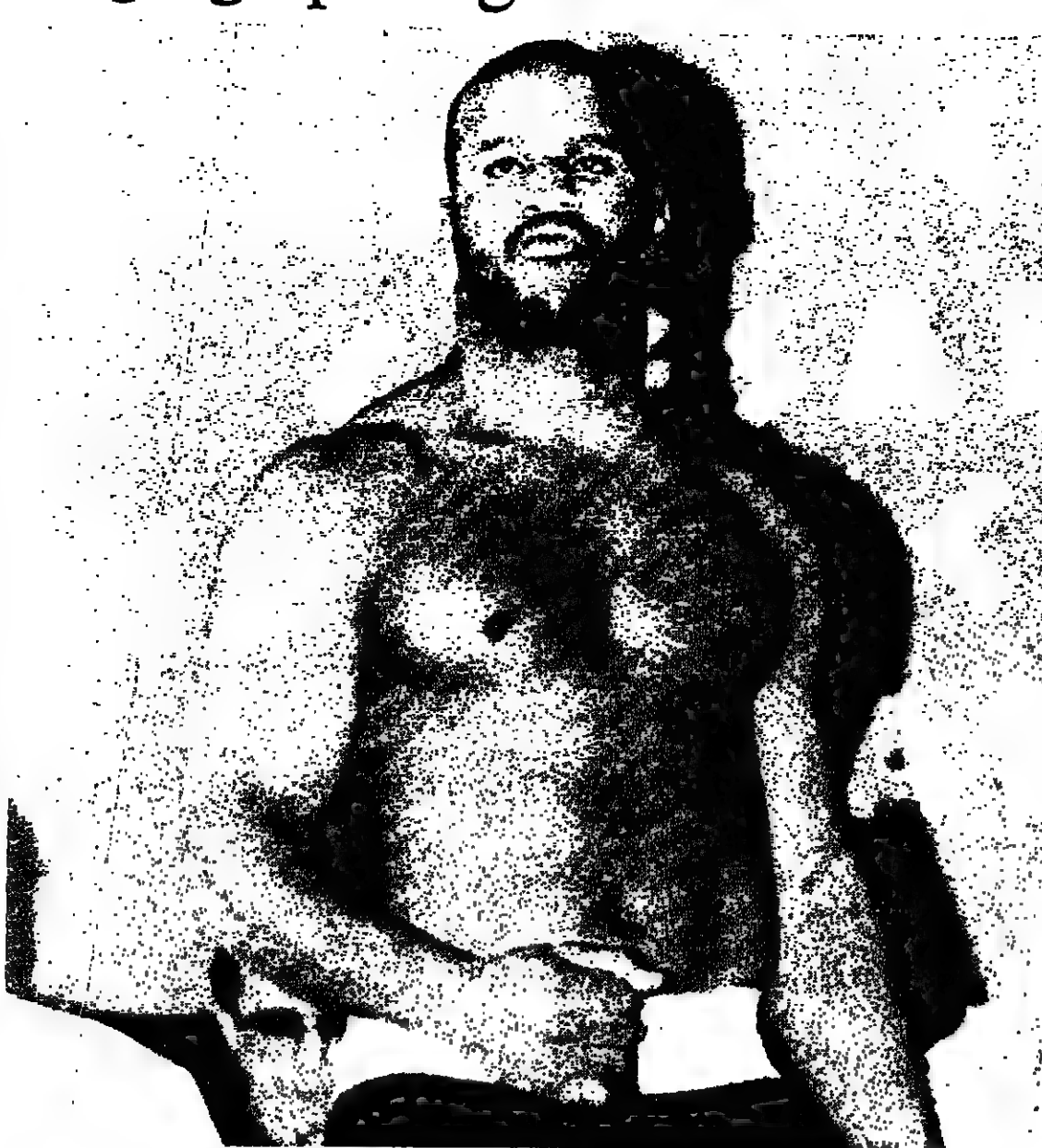
Yesterday, however, Moorer said of the radio interview, "I have a personal matter and I was frustrated. I said something I shouldn't have said."

Moorer is currently involved in a divorce from his wife, Bobbi. Moorer, who lives in Detroit, said that he wants to return to school.

"I've always wanted to pursue a career in the law enforcement area, and I will not return (to boxing)," he told *The Detroit News* in a report published yesterday.

Foreman, 45, stopped Moorer with a two-punch combination at 2:03 of the 10th round to become the oldest champion in any weight class. Moorer, leading the fight in points on all three judges' cards, said he got lackadaisical.

Moorer (35-1) won the heavy-



TO BOX OR NOT TO BOX? — Former heavyweight champion Michael Moorer is talking about retiring from the ring. (Reuters)

weight titles when he beat Evander Holyfield. He reportedly earned about \$7 million for the

Foreman fight, his only title defense. He said he wasn't concerned

about turning his back on some big paydays. "Money isn't everything. I'm content with what I have."

Local soccer league back to thick of action

DEREK FAITAL

AFTER the excitement of Wednesday's international victory over Azerbaijan and last weekend's Toto Cup program, the focus returns to the red-hot battle for top position in the National League.

With a mere three points separating the leading seven sides it is anyone's guess which will be at the summit tomorrow night. Round 10 marks the third-way point of the season, and the final round of the first cycle of matches.

Bnei Yehuda, the current leader, has headed the division more than the other challengers. This weekend the Hapoel Tel Aviv team faces Maccabi Netanya.

The Sharon side has weathered a stormy week with the firing of coach Viko Hadad and the appointment of former club-hero Oded Maccabee as manager and Shlomi Eldi as team coach. The Netanya board hopes that the injection of new blood will stimulate a revival in local interest in the team, and a crowd of more than 7,000 is anticipated.

The most entertaining prospect on the fixture list is 3rd-placed Beitar Jerusalem's visit to Hapoel Beersheba which holds 5th place. The two sides competed fiercely in three league meetings last season, with Beitar grabbing two

away wins while losing at Teddy by the south-eastern. Although Beitar fans are looking for a sixth straight win from their side, nearly half the first choice line-up is missing due to injury and suspension.

Another heart-warming prospect looks to be in store with 4th-placed Maccabi Tel Aviv hosting Hapoel-Haifa in the second match in a double-header at Bloomfield. Haifa midfielder general Tal Benin had a fine game in midweek against the Azeris and will seek to show his skills against Avraham Grant's Maccabi side.

In the earlier game being held at Bloomfield, Shihon Deyanev who commanded the center of the park for Azerbaijan while marking Eyal Berkowitz out of the match, returns to the turf in the colors of Beitar Tel Aviv. Beitar's opponent is bottom-positioned Maccabi Herzliya.

Fans at Kiryat Eliezer can look forward to Maccabi Haifa taking on Hapoel Tel Aviv. The Reds continue to ride the crest of a winning streak and will be no pushovers for the champions, who may be at a disadvantage with no less than seven first-team players seeing duty with the national squad this week. Meir Melika

could make his debut appearance for Hapoel following his move from Beitar Jerusalem. A win for the Haifaites could put them back amongst the title challengers.

The two Peitah Tikva sides have home games. Today Hapoel Beit She'an plays Maccabi, while tomorrow sees Holon in contest against Zefirum Holon.

Maccabi secured the services of Azeri winger Samir Aliekerov in a lightning deal closed on Wednesday night. Aliekerov flew back with the Israeli squad and is due to play for the Peitah Tikvas tomorrow.

In the remaining fixture of the round Ironi Rishon travels to Ashdod. The Ashdodians are seeking to halt a run of six consecutive defeats.

In round 9 of the Second Division, leader Maccabi Jaffa visits 3rd-place Kiryat Gat, while bottom club Maccabi Yavne hosts 2nd-placed Hapoel Hadera. At Teddy Stadium Hapoel Jerusalem entertains Hapoel Kfar Sava.

This weekend's National League fixtures (kick off 2:30 pm tomorrow unless otherwise stated): Maccabi Peitah Tikva vs. Hapoel Beit She'an, Peitah Tikva, today; Hapoel Peitah Tikva vs. Zefirum Holon, Peitah Tikva; Maccabi Netanya vs. Bnei Yehuda, Netanya; Hapoel Beersheba vs. Beitar Jerusalem, Beersheba; Beitar Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Herzliya, 3 pm, Bloomfield; Maccabi Haifa vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv, 4 pm, Kiryat Eliezer; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Hapoel Haifa, 5 pm, Bloomfield; Ironi Ashdod vs. Ironi Rishon, 6 pm, Ashdod.

Eighth Isrotel Triathlon runs in Eilat tomorrow

ORI LEWIS

MANY of the world's leading triathletes will gather at the shores of the Red Sea as the eighth Isrotel Eilat International Triathlon gets under way tomorrow morning.

The event, which is to become an Olympic sport in Sydney in 2000, comprises a 1.5-kilometer swim, a 40-km bicycle race and finishes off with a 10-km road race.

Some 100 athletes from 10 foreign countries have arrived for the spectacular event including defending men's and women's champions, Bernhard Olivier of Switzerland and Jannine de la Ruysscher of Belgium.

Another 300 local competitors are expected to take part in what is

also the Israeli national championships.

Among the locals, men's champion Ilan Bressler will be up against 100 Maori and Harel Steinberg, while in the women's event, perennial champion Bonnie Eshel will be going for her seventh consecutive title. Trying to stop her will be last year's runner-up Gali Steinberg, Meirav Tarshish and Smadar Cohen.

The national men's and women's championships will compete in the world championships to be held in New Zealand later this month.

The Eilat event is worth NIS 55,000 with the overall men's and women's winners each pocketing a check for \$3,500.

Neveh Yonatan does the cricket 'double'

Post Sports Staff

NEVEH Yonatan C.C. of Ashdod achieved a milestone in Israeli cricket when it defeated Ashdod A in the cup final. In doing so it became the first team in the history of Israeli cricket to do the double, having beaten Ashdod in the league two weeks ago.

In a low-scoring match, Ashdod A could only manage 76 in 35 batters with veteran Abe Daniels taking 5 for 28. In reply, the winner lost six wickets in making the same score.

The game was umpired by international Don Oslear (brought out specially for the game and a series of seminars) and Navor Gudker.

Oslear was clearly impressed by the game, although he also encountered a unique situation.

"In 25 years as an international and county umpire it is the first time I have ever given a batsman out hit wicket off a wide ball," he said.

Oslear starts his seminars in Beersheba and Ashdod tomorrow, Lod Sunday and Tel Aviv Monday.

Also Sunday, Clive Radley, the former Middlesex and England batsman and head coach at Lords, arrives for a week-long stay. He will be conducting coaching sessions for Israeli cricket coaches.

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET — New Zealand beat Sri Lanka West by 23 runs in their three-day match in Kimberley, South Africa yesterday. Scores: New Zealand 285-5 declared and 280-3 declared, Sri Lanka West 218 and 324.

Italian coach Sacchi rejects resignation calls

ROME (Reuters) — Coach Arrigo Sacchi rejected calls for his resignation yesterday after Italy's shock 2-1 defeat by Croatia in a European championship qualifier.

The press savaged Sacchi and his men after they were outplayed in Palermo by an impressive Croatian team which has won all three of its group four qualifiers.

"Sacchi, go away!" was the *Corriere dello Sport* headline. "National team humiliated by Croatia," commented *La Repubblica* on its front page.

But Sacchi, who guided Italy to the runners-up spot in the World Cup four months ago, dismissed the calls for his head.

"Why should I resign? I've said before and I repeat now that I intend to honor my contract to the very last day," said Sacchi, who has signed a highly lucrative deal to coach Italy until the 1996 European championship finals in England.

Croatia leads the group with nine points from three games while Lithuania has six and Ukraine and Italy four each.

The group winner will qualify automatically while second place could be enough to carry Italy through to a championship which they missed out on in Sweden in 1992.

The Sicilian fans warmly applauded a Croatian team who dominated the match throughout, striker Davor Suker netting in



FANCY FOOTWORK — Italian soccer player Attilio Lombardo dribbles around Croatian player Robert Jarni in Palermo Wednesday. (AP)

each half. Midfielder Dino Baggio headed Italy's goal in injury time but it was too late to influence the result.

"We came up against an experienced team whose players had the

ability to take advantage of our errors," Sacchi said.

Wednesday's European Championship qualifier Group 4 — Poland 0, France 0; Azerbaijan 0, Israel 2; Group 2 — Belgium 1, Macedonia 1; Spain 3, Denmark 0; Cyprus 2, Armenia 0; Group 3 — Switzerland 1, Iceland

0; Sweden 2, Hungary 0; Group 4 — Slovenia 1, Lithuania 2; Italy 1, Croatia 2; Group 5 — Belarus 0, Norway 0; Netherlands 0, Czech Republic 0; Group 6 — Northern Ireland 0, Ireland 4; Group 7 — Albania 1, Germany 2; Georgia 5, Wales 0; Bulgaria 4, Moldova 1; Group 8 — Scotland 1, Russia 1; Greece 2, San Marino 0; Finland 5, Faroe Islands 0.

Captain Platt steers England past Nigeria, 1-0

LONDON (Reuters) — Captain David Platt headed his 24th goal in his 50th international to give England a 1-0 victory over Nigeria in a friendly at Wembley on Wednesday.

Full back Austin Eguavoen, pulled up several times during the match for bad tackles, went in hard on Graeme Le Saux near the corner flag five minutes before the interval.

Chelsea midfielder Dennis Wise floated the free-kick into the middle of the penalty box where Platt met it with a firm downwards header that gave Nigeria's captain Peter Rufai no chance.

Nigeria, which reached the second round of the World Cup finals in July, had a string of near misses and Le Saux was forced to clear an injury time header from substitute Nwankwu Kanu off the goal-line.

England's victory closed an unbeaten first year under coach Terry Venables. In six matches, all at Wembley, the 1996 European championship hosts won four, conceding just one goal.

The match, with moments of breathtaking skill from the Nigerians, proved a quite different test for Venables' side from the 1-1 draw with Romania last month and England came

out of it somewhat better.

Blackburn striker Alan Shearer brought Rufai to a diving save in the opening minute as the English players managed to get off to a whirlwind start.

But within minutes the Nigerians had stamped their authority on the game, dominating the next 20 minutes.

During this spell of control, the African champions played some superb football with playmaker Austin Okocha at the heart of several sweeping moves. England was lucky not to concede a couple of goals.

Knicks continue to dominate Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Patrick Ewing and John Starks keyed a second-quarter run as the New York Knicks raced past the Los Angeles Lakers 110-89 on Wednesday.

Ewing, rested by coach Pat Riley after the Knicks entered

the final period leading 82-59, had 22 points as New York beat Los Angeles for the sixth straight time. The Knicks have swept the Lakers — whom they don't play again this season — three years in a row.

The Knicks, winning for the first time in three tries on a four-game trip, took a 53-36 lead with a 12-1 spurt in the final 2:19 of the second quarter.

Cedric Ceballos led Los Angeles with 19 points.

76ers 109, Heat 96
Jeff Malone scored 12 of his 31 points in the third quarter, leading Philadelphia to only its second victory in eight games.

Malone led the 76ers on a 16-4 spurt late in the third quarter after Miami

closed to 67-66. He scored six points during a 10-0 run, and Dana Barros' 35-foot jumper at the buzzer made it 88-75 entering the final period.

Barros made four of six 3-pointers, and had 24 points and 10 assists. Clarence Weatherspoon added 16 points for the 76ers, who never trailed.

Glen Rice led depleted Miami (1-5) with 24 points, and John Salley had 21 points and 12 rebounds. Injuries dented the visiting Heat the use of forwards Kevin Willis and Billy Owens and starting center Matt Geiger.

Bulls 94, Spurs 92
Will Perdue's dunk with less than a second left was decisive as visiting Chicago whistled another big night by David Robinson.

Perdue caught a perfect pass from Scottie Pippen, who was double-teamed at the top of the key, and stretched in for the easy basket.

Robinson led San Antonio with 30 points, 12 rebounds and seven blocks. Robinson, who scored at least 30 points for the fourth straight game, tied a franchise record with six blocked shots in the final period.

Ron Harper, who has struggled since joining the Bulls as a free agent, scored 27 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter.

Celtics 120, SuperSonics 93
Dominique Wilkins had his best game for Boston with 29 points and 10 rebounds. Wilkins, off to a slow start in his first five games, got the first six points of the third quarter as the Celtics rallied from a 53-53 halftime tie.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Boston 120, Seattle 93
Philadelphia 109, Miami 96
Chicago 94, San Antonio 92
Phoenix 105, Minnesota 89
New York 110, LA Lakers 89

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	4	2	.667	—
Orlando	4	2	.667	—
Washington	4	2	.667	—
Boston	2	4	.333	2
New Jersey	2	4	.286	2.5
Philadelphia	2	4	.250	3
Miami	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Detroit	4	2	.667	—
Cleveland	3	3	.500	.5
Minneapolis	3	3	.500	.5
Chicago	3	3	.500	.5
Indiana	3	3	.500	.5
Charlotte	2	4	.333	2
Atlanta	2	4	.286	2.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	7	0	1.000	—
Denver	5	1	.833	1.5
Dallas	3	3	.500	3
San Antonio	3	3	.500	3
Utah	3	4	.429	4
Memphis	1	7	.125	6.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Golden State	5	1	.833	—
Portland	5	1	.750	1
Phoenix	5	2	.714	.5
Sacramento	3	2	.600	1.5
Seattle	3	3	.500	2
LA Lakers	3	3	.375	2
LA Clippers	0	6	.000	6

Webber re-signs with Warriors

OAKLAND (AP) — Chris Webber, last year's rookie of the year who has yet to play this season, re-signed Wednesday night with the Golden State Warriors.

The signing was announced by the team and ends a bitter contract dispute that had led coach Don Nelson to say he would resign if such a move would facilitate signing Webber.

Webber, whose agents were investigating possible trades during the stalemate, was angry at Nelson for making such a suggestion.

The 6-foot-10 forward has missed the team's first six games of this season. He is expected to join the team today or tomorrow.

No terms of the agreement were announced. Webber's agents had said the holdup in his signing

was Webber's desire for an early escape clause in any long-term contract. It was unclear whether the contract signed Wednesday included such a clause.

Webber exercised his option to terminate his 15-year, \$74 million contract in the offseason and became a free agent. That touched off speculation surrounding his future with Golden State.

By signing Webber, the Warriors now would be able to trade him. They could not have traded Webber, or even negotiated with other teams about a trade, while he remained an unsigned free agent.

The Warriors made room for Webber on their 12-man active roster by requesting waivers on forward Rod Higgins. The Warriors also said they expect to rehire Higgins as an assistant coach later this week.

Schumacher-Hill crash under investigation

PARIS (AP) — Officials of the International Automobile Federation are examining a report on the controversial collision between Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill at the Australian Grand Prix.

FIA spokesman Francesco Longanesi said the world body was looking at the official race report submitted by its official observer at last Sunday's race in Adelaide.

A FIA statement concerning the observer's findings is not expected before today, he said.

"There is a report from the FIA observer as there is a report from the FIA observer at each FIA event," Longanesi said. "This report is currently under study, and the FIA cannot make any comment for the time being."

Schumacher's Benetton swerved in front of Hill's Williams on the 36th lap, eliminating both from the race which was eventually won by Nigel Mansell.

The crash allowed the German to win the 1994 Formula One driving title by one point over the British driver.

Schumacher said he lost control of his steering after hitting the wall. Hill has not blamed the German for the collision.

Panathinaikos suspends Gallis

ATHENS (AP) — Panathinaikos of Athens has suspended its star player, Nikos Gallis, for four months following a dispute with the team's previous coach, the club announced yesterday.

The decision was taken after the 37-year-old Greek American refused to play because of a row with coach Costas Politis three weeks ago. Politis then resigned complaining that Panathinaikos failed to support him.

"It was hard for me to take this decision, but I had no alternative," the club's president Pavlos Yannopoulos told reporters.

Gallis's absence has caused morale problems among the players reflected by their poor performance in the Greek and European Championships. His three-year \$3.5 million contract ends next year.

TODAY ON CABLE TV

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 9:15 Argentinean league soccer 10:45 Brazilian league soccer 11:45 Basketball: Israel v Spain 12:30 Soccer: England v Nigeria 15:00 WWF 16:00 Bushido 17:00 Motorsport 17:30 Hani ball 18:30 NFL 19:30 (to be announced) 20:00 Bushido 20:30 CBA basketball 22:00 European soccer magazine 23:00 Soccer: England v Nigeria

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Triathlon 11:00 Leisure sports 11:30 Sailing 12:00 ATP tennis 12:30 Snooker 13:00 European soccer: Belgium v Macedonia, Holland v Czech Republic 14:30 Drag racing 15:00 Live women's weightlifting 17:00 International motor racing magazine 18:00 Live men's weightlifting 20:00 Truck racing 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Archery 22:00 Boxing 00:00 WWF 1:00 Superbikes 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Chinese Open badminton 9:00 Water sports magazine 10:00 Show jumping 11:00 WWF 12:00 Asian soccer show 13:00 NBA behind the scenes 13:30 NBA: Chicago v Houston 15:00 Chinese Open badminton 20:00 NBA: Chicago v Houston 22:00 Chinese Open badminton 23:00 Motor racing from Macau

SATURDAY NOV. 19

CHANNEL 5

8:30 Table tennis 9:30 Soccer: England v Nigeria 11:00 Mondial 11:30 English soccer magazine 13:30 NFL 14:30 Volleyball 15:30 Handball 16:30 World rugby 17:00 CBA 18:30 (to be announced) 20:00 Bushido 20:30 NBA 22:00 Israeli soccer: Hapoel Beersheba v Beitar Jerusalem 00:00 NBA

EUROSPORT

9:30 Aerobics 10:00 Figure skating 12:00 WWF 13:00 Boxing 14:00 Motor racing from Britain 15:00 Live women's weightlifting 17:00 Wrestling 18:00 Live men's weightlifting 20:00 Show jumping 21:30 Live figure skating from Paris 15:00 Boxing 2:00 international motor racing magazine

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Live Macau Grand Prix 9:00 NBA behind the scenes 9:30 Sailing 10:00 Asian soccer show 11:00 International sports magazine 11:30 European soccer show 12:30 WWF 13:30 Chinese Open badminton 15:00 Asian soccer show 16:00 International sports magazine 16:30 European soccer show 20:30 WWF 21:30 Sailing 22:00 Chinese Open badminton 23:00 Chinese league soccer

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- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
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Deri asks to tape court proceedings

EVELYN GORDON
and Ilim

FORMER interior minister Aryeh Deri yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice for the right to tape the proceedings in his criminal trial.

Deri is on trial in the Jerusalem District Court for fraud, bribe-taking, breach of trust and falsifying corporate documents.

The petition, filed by Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, argues that because the trial is taking place four days a week, it is essential for the attorneys to have access to transcripts of each day's proceedings quickly, so they can prepare for the following day. However, the court-prepared protocols arrive only several hours later in the best case, and sometimes not until the following morning, the petition said.

It could also be useful to the court to have a recording of the proceedings, the petition added, because the stenographic protocol is sometimes interrupted by computer breakdowns.

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A Qatari television film crew will wrap up a week-long visit on Sunday. The three-man crew visited Jordan, Israel, and Gaza. In Israel, the team concentrated largely on Moslem historical and religious sites. At a meeting at the Government Press Office's Arabic department are (from left) department manager Ori Dromi, broadcaster Abdel Aziz Sayed, division head Dr. Fawaz Kamal, producer Ali Kawari, and cameraman Abdel Hamid Ibrahim. (GPO)

Ramon gives Labor building in Haifa to Shas

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon has given the Noar Haoved Vehlomed youth movement building in Haifa to Shas, which is planning to turn it into a haredi yeshiva.

The move has aroused a storm in Labor ranks, and sparked de-

mands that Ramon reveal the hidden clauses in his coalition agreement with Shas.

Histadrut executive member Noga Botanski, who is in charge of the labor federation's youth and young guard department, was furious over the decision to sell the

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

building without conferring with her first.

"Transferring a property on the basis of a political agreement without the approval of the Histadrut executive is extremely grave," Bo-

tanski said. "Histadrut assets are not private property."

Sources close to Ramon said yesterday that "they understood" the building was abandoned in a state of disrepair, was out of use, and had accumulated debts ex-

ceeding its value.

Shas, they said, had covered all the debts - some NIS 11 million - from its own pocket.

However, Noar Haoved Vehlomed leaders in Haifa said the building was in full use and well maintained.

MKs reject Namir plea for extra NIS 82m.

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday rejected a Labor and Social Affairs Ministry request for an extra NIS 82 million in its 1995 budget.

However, the ministry is still hopeful the committee will change its mind sometime during the year, as it did last year with regard to a request for an extra NIS 28m.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir told the committee that while her proposed NIS 2.77 billion budget includes a NIS 199m. increase over this year, above the increase required by natural population growth, this is not enough.

Some NIS 92m. of the extra NIS 199m. is needed to cover the cost of the new wage agreements signed by the Treasury.

Another NIS 28m. will go for welfare projects and NIS 5m. will be earmarked for a project to increase employment in 15 high-unemployment locations.

With another NIS 82m., Namir said she would spend an extra NIS 17.5m. on the elderly, NIS 15m. on welfare for new immigrants, NIS 12.4m. on community

care for the retarded, and NIS 7.6m. on the handicapped, among other projects.

Namir made an emotional appeal for the importance of projects, such as community care for the retarded. "No family can handle the physical and emotional burden of having a retarded person in the house [round the clock]," she said. Although some of the MKs supported Namir's request, a majority rejected it.

Histadrut tribunal forbids Ram from making appointments in Arab sector

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

political power there at Labor's expense.

Histadrut Parliament Chairman MK Ran Cohen of Ram had scheduled a convention of the parliament to change the constitution so that it would enable the appointment of labor council secretaries without elections. Cohen must now postpone the resolution on this issue until after the tribunal's debate.

Labor's Histadrut Faction Chairman Haim Haberfeld said

yesterday that Ram had only 10% to 20% support in the Arab sector at the Histadrut elections this May, while the massive majority - 50% to 70% - voted for Labor. Now Ram wants to replace the Arab labor committee leaders with their own people, instead of holding elections there, he said.

"Ram promised to hold elections for the Arab labor councils to put an end to the political appointments, and is now making a mockery of democratic procedures," Haberfeld added.

IDF counters complaints of combat men in reserves

ALON PINKAS

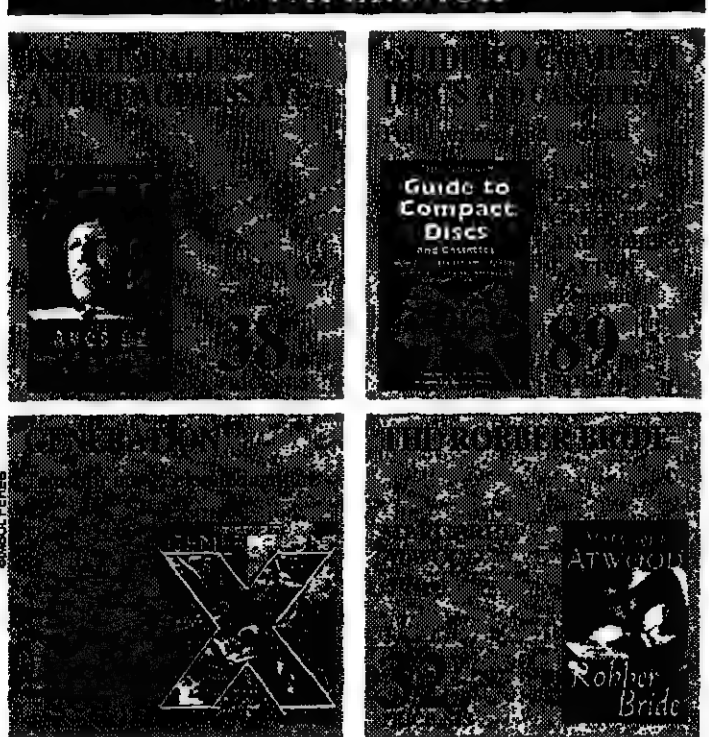
REPORTS contending that combat soldiers, constituting 30% of the reserves, carry 80% of the burden of annual reserve days are inaccurate and misleading, the officer in charge of reserve planning, said yesterday.

Brig-Gen. Israel Einhorn, the head of the IDF Manpower Branch's planning department who is in charge of the army's entire reserve service planning, criticized the reports. Einhorn said that 150,000 IDF veterans who do not serve in the reserves at all were included in the figures, to produce a distorted picture. He told Army Radio that those people include individuals who left the country, policemen, border policemen and thousands of women exempt from reserve duty altogether.

"It is true that 30 percent of the soldiers and officers make up for slightly over a half of the total reserve days, plainly because they are combat soldiers trained for these tasks."

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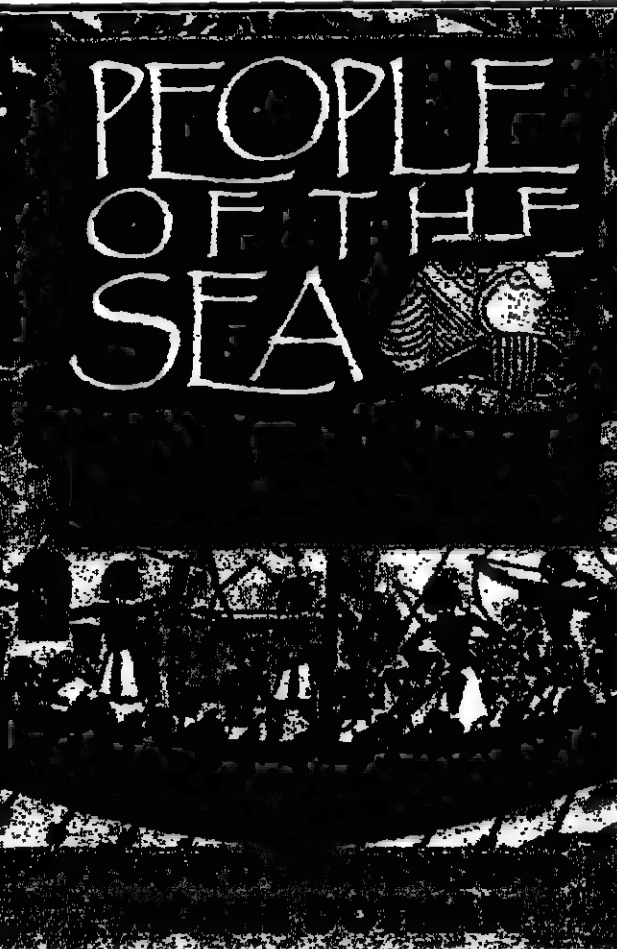
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AND ALL TRAVEL AGENTS

Life without tomatoes: Some adjust, some won't

As consumers around the country shudder at rising produce prices, they consider changing their eating habits ... but it won't be easy.
Rachel Neiman reports

THE rocketing prices of vegetables have deprived Israelis of their favorite ammunition, next to mud.

Although Israelis have long accepted chicken and turkey as acceptable alternatives to beef, another sacred cow was slaughtered Wednesday when Finance Minister Avraham Shohat gingerly broached the idea of cutting consumption. It's not a bad idea, but can it be done? And, if it is to be done, which freier is going to do it first?

The freiers will most likely include English speakers. They are already perceived as such, and their vegetable-consumption habits are less ingrained.

"My notion of Israeli salad in the morning (tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers) was what us Anglos fondly used to call TCP," says Nomi Landau, an ex-Briton living in Tel Aviv, who has discovered an exciting world of salad without TCP. "I love huge mixed salads with all sorts of things. I don't eat tomatoes anymore ... You can have a bloody good salad without them."

Those who remember and prefer the taste of vegetables in years gone by are willing to pay more at greengrocers who stock superior produce. Now, however, there is barely a difference between good and bad, says Tel Avivian Esti Zakheim, an actress/director who has lived abroad. "I've been asked to pay NIS 10 at the greengrocer. The supermarket across the way is charging NIS 9.20, but it has only the worst kind, bland and on the verge of being spoiled."

The problem, she says, is that "a tomato-and-cucumber salad is as basic as bread-and-butter."

Monique Ben-Zaken of Jerusalem's Mama Mia Italian restaurant, said the restaurant was "managing as usual. We use the same quantities and have not raised the price. Tomatoes are available, so we absorb the loss."

Ben-Zaken said she had not noticed a rise in



A stall owner in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda open market hawks his red gold: tomatoes, a steal at NIS 9.50 a kilo. (Jasac Harnet)

tomato-sauce consumption. "At this time, it's more worthwhile (for customers) to eat salad here than to make it at home."

Yaffa Mizrahi of Bat Yam seemed oblivious to the price of the tomatoes she was selecting at a Tel Aviv branch of Super-Sol. "What can I do if they charge NIS 10 a kilo?" she said with a shrug of her shoulders. "My husband likes his salad, and what would a salad be without tomatoes?"

Rivka Hanovsky, a Tel Aviv homemaker, has enjoyed the benefits of her husband Zalman's connections in the wholesale market. She is used to getting fruit and vegetables by the crate, she

says, but this month supplies have dried up. "Even the second-rate vegetables are gone," she says, as they are snapped up by suppliers. Because she and her husband are retirees, they have had no choice but to cut down.

A phone call to one self-described typical Israeli family in Jerusalem started with teenager Alexander, who said: "In this house we will not cut down our food supply just because it costs more. We are going to eat and eat and eat."

"He's absolutely right," said his mother, Bracha, an office administrator. "I know they say if we didn't buy them the price would not go up, but

we bought them anyway ... If I give the kids a dish without two slices of tomato I haven't given them their requisite portion of Vitamin C."

Another reason Alexander has vegetables on his plate every night is that his family owns a freezer. During the summer, his father Moshe bought a crate for NIS 10 at a roadside stand.

"We sauce with the soft ones, which we froze, the medium ones were made into salads which we ate right away, and the unripe ones were scalded and frozen in plastic bags," Moshe said.

It is an example which others might do well to follow ... when the price comes down.

Ministers stew

THE Finance and Agriculture ministries blame each other for the fruit and vegetable crisis.

"[Ya'acov] Tsuri is not the farmer's minister. He is the agriculture minister and should act it," said Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

"Finance Ministry officials are to blame for the surge in vegetable prices," Tsuri responded.

Produce prices contributed 0.4% to the index which rose 1.4% in October. Last month, produce prices surged almost 8% (38.2% since the start of the year). The price of tomatoes jumped 53%, cabbage prices rose 46.3%, eggplant 36.6%, cucumbers 28.2%, green peppers 25.3%, lettuce 22.9%, beets 19.4%, and zucchini 17.2%.

Efraim Shalom, general manager of the Vegetable Marketing Board, said tomato prices could fall to their normal levels in February. He added that 8,000 tons of tomatoes would be distributed in November, compared with a monthly average of 13,000 tons.

After the Health Ministry on November 8 banned the import of produce from Gaza because of the cholera outbreak there, market supply of tomatoes fell to 60% of that in November 1993. The first consignment of tomatoes from Jordan was due Wednesday but was delayed because the wholesale price there has increased from between NIS 2 and NIS 3 to NIS 6 since the ministry first contacted the Jordanians.

Shohat has expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Agriculture Ministry's slow and inefficient handling of fruit and vegetable imports to stem higher prices. But Tsuri claims the import of produce is difficult and expensive. He is urging Shohat to encourage domestic agriculture.

At the end of October, Tsuri issued licenses to import a total of 1,000 tons of tomatoes per month from France and Holland. But importers have imported less than 100 tons this month, even though the average consumption of tomatoes is about 2,000 tons per week. Importers say transportation costs make it unprofitable to import tomatoes from Europe.

Tsuri argued that the price rises prove that agriculture can't be managed according to free market principles. "Stable prices can be maintained only if farmers receive financial support ... when prices are very low."

The ministers agree on one thing: the public's responsibility. Shohat said, "Don't eat tomatoes. During my childhood there was a period during which I didn't eat tomatoes, and, as you can see, there were no side-effects." *Galit Lipitz Back*

Normal life in a 'tomatocracy'

GROWING up here in the 1960s, we found things simple, uncomplicated and innocent. There was an aura of normalcy which appears to those looking back as appealingly sweet, even if we didn't realize it at the time.

We do now, although in retrospect it's hard to comprehend how we managed without tomatoes. Tomatoes in November were a phenomenon experienced only by those with relatives in a kibbutz.

Take 1966, for example. A nation was being built. Mapai ruled. Ben-Gurion was in retreat in Sde Boker. The Lavon affair was the hottest news. Shimon Peres was already a veteran politician; Menachem Begin was considered a contemptible clown.

Economic austerity was in force. Not that we noticed. "Territories" referred to orange or avocado groves. The Beatles were a soul-corrupting band of four boogymen from Liverpool. England had just won the World Cup and Arsenal was only four years away from glorious double league-cup honors.

Both played in tomato-red.

Lyndon Johnson was our distant, revered and beloved president. The Soviet Union was not an enemy, and Gamal Abdel Nasser went on forever proclaiming Egypt to be the leader of Africa, the Arab world, the Third World and what not.

Israel was the citrus capital of the world.

But that age of adolescent innocence and post-colonial simplicity had one remarkable downside: no tomatoes when it rained.

This was despite Israel establishing itself as a pioneering global force in agriculture. During the winters we never had tomatoes. Never. Not even ketchup.

Latin was never taught in Israeli schools, so we ignorantly called *Lycopersicon esculentum* "tomato," "agvanyia" in Hebrew, or "bandura" in Arabic.

We saw it as a red, glossy, juicy, tight-skinned, round-fruited vegetable (it's actually a fruit, but we didn't know that). In 1994 Israel, that sounds more like a line from *Yiddish Ma'ariv* sex-ads.

It's not easy trying to recollect accurately what we ate in the 1960s, or even to recall the national status of tomatoes in the '70s or '80s. But this should serve as a good illustration of the tomato-deprivation era with which generations of distressed Israelis had to cope.

Just try to answer this: Why were rotten tomatoes always hurled at politicians while football referees and linemen had oranges and tangerines thrown at them? It wasn't because soccer officials suffered from a vitamin C

Flavor, like our pioneering spirit, is long gone. How do you like them love-apples? Not much,
Alon Pinkas writes



deficiency which fans were eager to cure or that politicians looked good in red. Rather, elections were often held in summer, tomato season, while the football and citrus seasons coincided with fall and winter. There was order once in the world of superpowers and in the world of fresh produce.

Enter biotechnology. Our insatiable quest for "real" normalcy, not the seasonal kind during the 1960s, led to science trying to overcome nature.

People who conquered the desert with grapefruits and defied barren land with oranges submitted themselves to exports and market demands. In so doing, we have embarked on a self-destructive emulation of America's dubious and tasteless contribution to gastronomy: the colorful and glossy world of inedible plastic fruits and vegetables.

Praise those who think they know the difference between tomatoes and grapes sold in November. Shake the hand of someone who thinks that peaches and plums, grapes and tomatoes taste the same as they did in 1966 or 1976.

The thing is, the very same people who conquered the desert and reinvented agriculture are the world's worst consumers, unless of course arms procurement is factored in.

The arrogant, wheeler-dealer, self-proclaimed know-it-all, "I'm-no-freier" Israeli is a world-class freier with a capital F. He buys tomatoes today and would buy fela-fel tomorrow if it cost NIS 25. He buys his Mitsubishi for the price of a Cadillac and thinks he's getting a great deal. He pays four times what Europeans pay for gasoline or coffee, dismissing criticism with, "What? I shouldn't buy?"

Only in Antalya, Turkey, is he a region-leading bargain hunter. And even there, his bargains-for-bragging are sometimes uncomfortably attached to a sink which is attached to a wall which is attached to a hotel.

Take, for example, a Gallup poll conducted Wednesday, a day after the maligned space-age designer tomato was blamed for the sharp rise in the Consumer Price Index.

Some 23% said the government was to blame for the prices, 17% said the weather was guilty, and 16% said it was the minister of agriculture's fault. Four percent pointed a finger at the outbreak of cholera in Gaza, and 20% said they didn't know. Surprisingly, the chief of staff was not blamed.

Not one respondent blamed himself or the rest of the Mitsubishi-owning, ex-IDF-commando, street-smart, quintessential freiers for paying NIS 9.90 for a kilo of tomatoes.

Nobody thinks that not buying tomatoes in November would lower their prices eventually and thus lower the index. No, it's the government and its lousy agricultural planning and Hamas and cholera and the Republican-controlled Congress that hasn't been sworn in yet. "Not me. Hey, I'll pay anything if I can just blame someone for it."

There was a time, before the \$200 million F-151, before nuclear deterrence, before the peace of the brave with Arafat, and before the Israeli stock-market pimp evolved that tomatoes and grapes and peaches were the real qualitative edge.

No longer. We are now a normal, post-industrial, pre-election society.

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The military bond is loosened but not untied

South Africa's new black-led government is likely to buy fewer Israeli armaments but is expected to remain in close touch with this country's military, Steve Rodan reports

LAST summer, military relations with South Africa looked doomed. South African Defense Minister Joe Modise exposed the extent of Israel's cooperation with Pretoria and warned that the new black-led government would make significant changes.

Next week, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur heads an Israeli delegation to Johannesburg to attend an exhibition of South African armaments. The invitation came from Modise.

Israeli officials say the two developments characterize the changing nature of Pretoria's defense ties with Jerusalem and reflect tentative steps to forge a new level of cooperation. Under the government of President Nelson Mandela, who was said to have reprimanded Modise for his statement in July, South Africa is expected to maintain close contact with Israel's military while continuing to reduce the importation of its products and services.

"Actually, their relations with Israel haven't changed," says a senior defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "For the future, it's not clear what kind of ties there will be. They probably won't be as intimate as in the past."

The reason is largely financial, Israeli officials say. The South African military is taking a back seat these days following the government's pledge to improve living conditions for the black majority.

Also, South Africa has different military needs from those of even two years ago. It is no longer threatened with guerrilla infiltration, let alone hostile northern neighbors. Those prospects prompted high-volume military

imports from Israel in the early and mid-1980s.

"The whole South African military has changed significantly," says Dov Zakheim, a former senior official in the US Defense Department. "Now it has a different set of security problems. One of them is preventing an outbreak of civil war, either between whites and blacks or between blacks themselves."

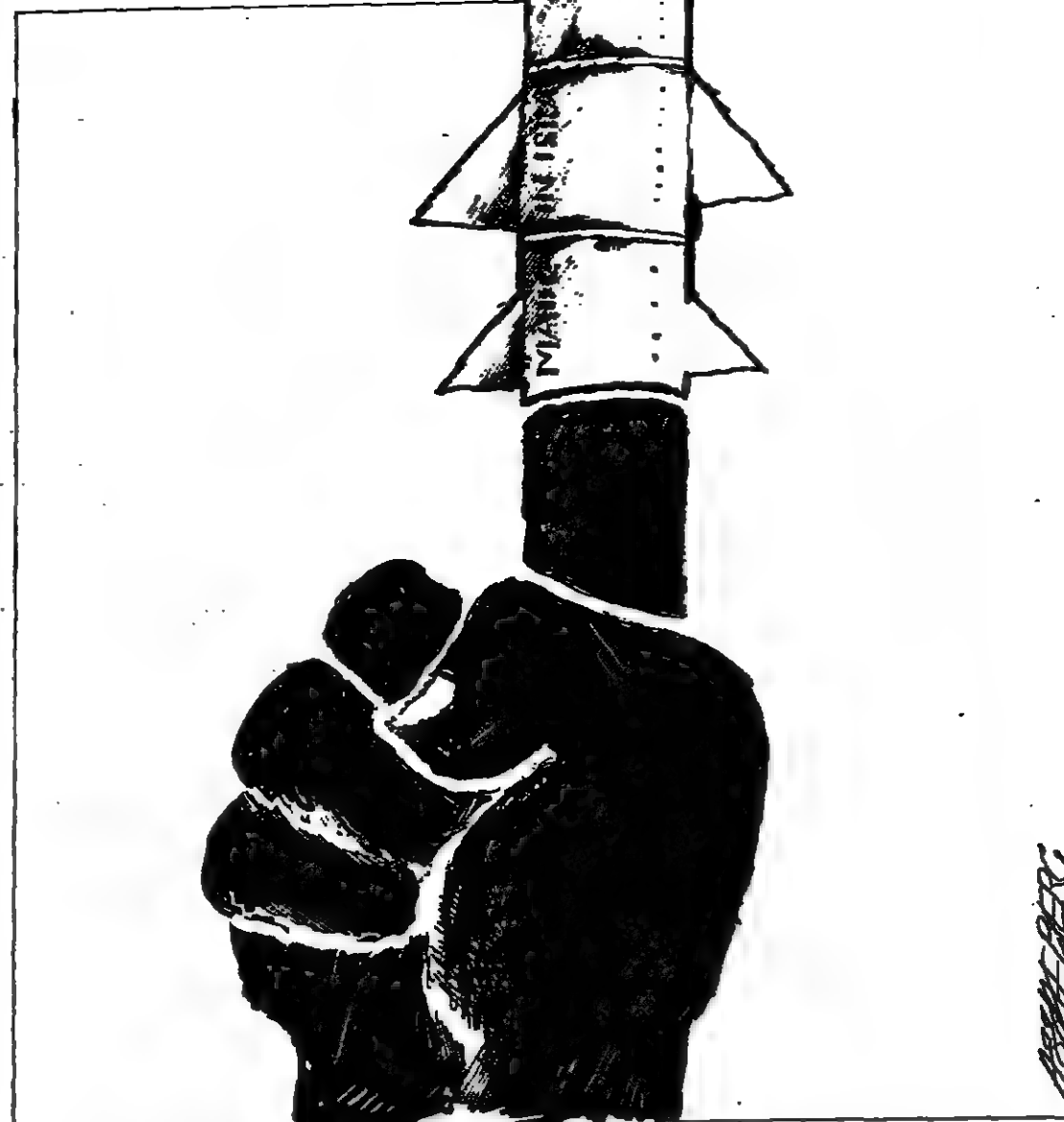
THE ARMS exhibition, called DEXSA '94, begins on Tuesday and features more than 100 of that country's defense companies. They will demonstrate the Rooivalk combat-support helicopter, a modification of the Mirage fighter-jet, complete with the new Russian SMR-95 engine.

The last such exhibition in South Africa was in 1992, also organized by the state-owned Armscor defense conglomerate. Then, 250 foreign visitors arrived from 56 countries.

Starting from around 1976, South Africa viewed Israel as a fellow nation under siege, isolated in the international community. Pretoria hoped that Israel could upgrade South African tanks and planes and help its burgeoning defense industry.

In February 1987, with the UN embargo, Israel decided to sign no new defense contracts with South Africa. That September, Israel formally joined in the sanctions imposed on Pretoria.

The Israeli decision pitted Defense Ministry officials - intent on finding ways to maintain ties with South Africa despite the sanctions - against Foreign Ministry representatives, who wanted to honor the letter and spirit of the UN embargo and reduce the vol-



ume of defense trade.

Officials say the damage to Israel was negligible. Israel already had long-term contracts with Pretoria. The white regime understood Israel had little choice but to honor the sanctions, and did not terminate any existing contracts.

The Israeli concerns began when the white regime agreed to elections and Mandela was voted into power in April. Israel had no ties with the military wing of the African National Congress, whose leader was Modise, now the nation's defense chief.

"We tried to develop ties with the ANC military people back in 1991," says an Israeli official who declined to be identified, "but they weren't interested in us. They were with the Libyans then."

Defense Ministry officials recall they were worried about a black

backlash. That, however, proved unfounded. Modise's criticism of Israeli military ties to Pretoria was regarded by officials as catering to the small lobby within the black government that wants to reduce its defense relationship with Israel.

Mandela, who has close ties with Israeli leaders, particularly the Foreign Ministry, has ordered his government not to make any sweeping changes in the white bureaucracy or its military policies.

The result is that most of the same officials in Pretoria still manage South Africa's government defense industries. Israeli defense officials began visiting South Africa quietly and learned that, Modise's statement notwithstanding, the Mandela government was pleased with its military ties with Israel and that it would honor all existing contracts.

BUT MORE contracts expire with each passing year, and Western diplomats say the volume of Israeli defense exports to Pretoria has been declining steadily. South African experts estimate the annual figure of Israeli exports to be between \$200 million and \$300m. Israeli exports worldwide this year are expected to reach \$1.5 billion.

Officials here don't expect a dramatic upswing. First, the South African military is being downsized. Second, there is little money for expensive weapons systems. For example, Western diplomatic sources say Israel kept South Africa's air force up to par over the last decade with an upgrading of dozens of aging Cheetah fighter-jets.

Zakheim nonetheless expects Israel to capitalize on South Africa's budget-cutting mood.

"Under these circumstances, you would expect South Africa to look for the most cost-effective equipment, and Israel holds up to that [criticism] very well," he says. "In fact, it might even have a lock on the subject."

With the lifting of the UN trade embargo, South Africa wants to concentrate on exporting its own weapons. Western diplomats say it has been doing so vigorously, trying to market arms in Africa and the Middle East, including Iraq.

Last week, Petrus Smith, marketing manager of Armscor, testified to an independent commission that South Africa has sold weapons to Rwanda, Yemen, Lebanon and Angola, all of which had been or are engaged in civil wars - and, in Angola's case, had even been at war with South Africa itself.

Western diplomats say South African weapons shipped to Lebanon included anti-tank missiles and launchers, and AK-47 assault rifles. The shipment was intended for the Christian militia in Lebanon, but diplomats believe the arms might have ended up with Hizbullah.

South African defense officials say they never checked documentation to verify the final destination.

Some US officials have been concerned about these weapons sales and, despite the lifting of the UN embargo, the Clinton administration has not allowed US defense contractors to do business in South Africa. Some Israelis are warning the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to be cautious as well.

Alon Liel, a former Israeli ambassador to Pretoria, says Israel should pursue business opportunities in South Africa. But, he adds, defense contracts shouldn't be among them. They would only exacerbate lingering black resentment over the long Israeli military relationship with the white regime.

There has to be a change in direction from military to civilian, like housing and health, where Israel has always had interests in Africa," says Liel, now director-general of the Economics and Planning Ministry.

Liel criticizes Gur's plans to go to next week's arms exhibition. Western diplomatic sources say most of those attending will be representatives of Eastern European, Asian or Third World countries. Gur, they say, might be the highest level representative from a Western country. The US and many European countries are not expected to attend DEXSA '94.

"I think that any military benefits of its participation would be more than offset by the political damage," Liel says.

Take the down elevator to visit a grave site, engineers say

Burial in multilevel underground chambers would solve the cemetery-land problem, researchers tell Sue Fishkoff



Dr. Giora Rosenhouse: Underground burial is simply the only solution. (Paul Mellinger)

LIVING space is at a premium in most parts of the country. So is dying space. Experts estimate that within two years, three at most, there will be no burial room in cemeteries from Haifa to Jerusalem.

Given the growing population, including the continuing immigration from the former Soviet Union, pressure on the country's cemeteries has reached crisis proportions.

Dr. Felix Kirzhner, who worked as a mining engineer for 20 years in Siberia and now researches the stability of underground structures at the Technion, says he has a solution: Bury people underground. Deep underground.

Jewish law forbids cremation, and burying people side by side in conventional plots is not the best way to use limited land, Kirzhner says. One dunam provides space for just 250 conventional burial plots, he says, while multilevel underground burial chambers, depending on the design, can accommodate 5,000 to 10,000 plots per dunam.

"Underground burial is simply the only solution," says Dr. Giora Rosenhouse, a civil-engineering professor at the Technion who has been studying burial possibilities for the past 20 years.

He says Haifa's burial society threatened as far back as 1986 to begin burying people in the pathways between burial plots if no new cemetery was built.

"For me, the problem is ecological," Rosenhouse says.

He points to Haifa's Sde Yehoshua cemetery, which begins at the waterfront near the Mahaneh Yehuda neighborhood and has been extended up the sides of Mt. Carmel, where hard stone prevents deep burial. "They don't dig deep enough, and people living nearby have complained about the smell," he says.

"There's no place to bury more people in Tel Aviv. What will we face a generation from now?"

He says underground burial has an illustrious history. Many ancient peoples buried their poor in aboveground trenches, reserving burial in caves or catacombs for their wealthiest, most respected citizens. In Mishnaic times, some great sages of the Sanhedrin were buried in caves at Beit She'an, near Kiryat Tivon.



A sketch of a proposed deep underground burial site. (Paul Mellinger)

Rosenhouse flips through a thick file containing sketches of proposed systems.

Some show circular rooms extending down 20 floors with elevator shafts up the middle and walkways around the perimeter. Others show long corridors with burial plots in the walls, like mausoleums.

"It wouldn't look like a cave," he says. "It would be quite respectful. The important thing is to make it visually appealing."

MULTITIERED GRAVES, designed by Uri Ponger and Sagiv Shkarka, exist in cemeteries in Jerusalem and Haifa, but Rosenhouse says this is only an interim step, to get the public used to the idea of deep underground burial. "To me, the terraces are visually disturbing," he says. "People don't like to see burial mounds near their homes. It's more esthetically acceptable to build deep underground."

Also, the terrace cemetery only provides space for twice as many plots as conventional above-ground burial, so it is not a permanent solution to the space problem.

In 1991, Kirzhner, newly arrived from the former Soviet Union, approached Rosenhouse and said he had a solution. In addition to his research job at the Technion, Kirzhner works with Momentan, a small group of im-

migrant engineers and architects in Haifa.

This fall, the group submitted proposals for deep underground cemeteries to the municipalities of Jerusalem and Nazareth and met with the Haifa burial society.

Cities with hilly terrain are the best sites for a catacombs system, he says. Jerusalem and Haifa, with soft limestone hills, are particularly good locations, he says.

"If one city would just give us a parcel of land to build this, it would help the country," he says.

The proposal is still in the exploratory stage, Kirzhner says. He is considering several multilevel designs, but the final design can be determined only after a site is chosen and geological studies are made. Catacombs can be added onto an existing cemetery or be constructed at a new site.

JERUSALEM is the best place to begin, he says, mostly for financial reasons.

"Wealthy Jews from America and all over the world want to be buried in Jerusalem, and maybe they would pay now to ensure their place," he says. "We have several sites in mind. We'd like to build in a place with a nice view."

Kirzhner sent his proposal to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert on October 5. Olmert wrote back on October 12, saying the issue is complicated and that he had given the plans to

the city engineer for consideration.

A spokeswoman for the mayor's office says that land allocation for cemeteries is outside the city's jurisdiction, as are any matters regarding "innovative building" for burial. These are the responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Dina Rachewsky, director of the department of national and regional planning for the Interior Ministry, says such decisions are made at the regional level within the Ministry of the Interior by regional committees of the national board of planning and building.

Kirzhner has so far received no response from Nazareth officials. Six months ago, Kirzhner and his group met with the Haifa burial society, which is considering constructing a new, aboveground cemetery in Rechasim, some 20 km. from the old cemetery.

Kirzhner wants the society to consider building catacombs into the hillside of Mt. Carmel to keep the old Sde Yehoshua cemetery.

"People are used to going to visit the old place, and the proposed new site is too inconvenient," he says. "Traffic is terrible."

The same month that the 1991 report appeared, Rachewsky handed the project to a group of engineers and architects from the Technion, headed by two professors of civil engineering, Dr. Giora Rosenhouse and Dr. Israel Lin.

The group researched the technical and economic aspects of various underground-burial designs, from Talmudic sketches to ornate, multileveled structures resembling underground libraries.

As of today, no specific design has been presented to the government committee.

Rachewsky says proposals have been received in Jerusalem, and a project was begun and then abandoned in Tel Aviv.

"The government has accepted the concept, but the appropriate mechanism has not yet been found," says Rosenhouse, who has been studying burial options for the past 20 years.

Rosenhouse supports Kirzhner's proposal and suggests that with creative marketing, it might succeed.

"You could sell family plots; it could attract families from abroad," he says. "It could be used as a combined cemetery and bomb shelter. There are many possible combinations."

Whatever happens, Rosenhouse says that 20 years of thinking about cemeteries is enough for him, and he is ready to turn his attention elsewhere.

"It's a real problem, but for me, it's a bit macabre," he says.



Dr. Felix Kirzhner: Cities with hilly terrain are the best sites. (Paul Mellinger)

In addition, building new roads and preparing the site would cost the city NIS 20 million, he says, whereas adding a catacombs structure onto the existing cemetery would require "a fraction of that. The exact amount, of course, depends on the design chosen."

Multitiered underground burial is about half the price of above-ground plots, which cost NIS 1,700 each, he says. In catacombs of four or five levels, a plot would cost about NIS 800, again depending on the design.

Once a city agrees to give Kirzhner and his group a parcel of land, he will look for financing.

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Deep-burial proposals lie dormant

IN A June 1991 report, a joint committee from the Interior and Religious Affairs ministries, which included representatives of several municipalities and burial societies, called for innovative solutions to the burial problem.

The committee agreed in principle to establish pilot projects for catacombs or multilevel underground cemeteries in Haifa and Jerusalem, and invited engineers and architects to submit design proposals.

Dina Rachewsky, director of the department of national and regional planning for the interior minister, headed the joint committee. She says the major barrier to overcome is psychological.

"It's a good idea, but we have to change people's psychology first, their attitude toward [underground burial]," she says. "That will take a lot of marketing."

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מקומות מוגבלים

Israel still safe in US's new (Republican) agenda

Republican success in the midterm election will not change Israel's status as a favorite of the US, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes

WHEN US Senator Barbara Boxer refers to "the massacre," she isn't talking about this year's tragic events in Hebron's Machpelah Cave or on the No. 5 bus in Tel Aviv, but last week's Republican sweep of the House and Senate in the US midterm elections.

For Boxer, a liberal Jewish Democrat from Northern California who has more than a political connection to President Clinton (her daughter recently married his brother-in-law), the election was truly disastrous.

Her disappointment at the electoral repudiation of Clinton's administration is shared by the majority of her fellow American Jews, if voting patterns are any indication. Exit polls published in the New York Times indicated that 78 percent of American Jews voted for Democrats.

The heavy Jewish turnout for the Democrats could be attributed to the liberal domestic agenda many Jews hold dear. But most of those in the Jerusalem audience the senator addressed this week wanted to know what this radical change in Congress's balance of power would mean for US support of Israel.

Boxer, a petite woman neatly turned out in a gray flannel suit and pearls, could only speculate. Essentially, she said, nobody knows. "On the bright side, I think that Israel is very popular in America right now. But the Republicans received a mandate that is very isolationist, and many of them do believe that Israel is going to have to wean herself from America."

The questions addressed to Boxer are the same ones Prime Minister Rabin is asking pro-Israeli activists and the new congressional leaders during his current visit to the US.

THIS MUCH is certain: The leadership of the new Republican majority has pledged to cut the federal budget, and, therefore, to scrutinize every expenditure, domestic and foreign.

Still, Israel's supporters maintain that this will not necessarily translate into cuts in military and economic aid to Israel. Since the election, the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been broadcasting a message of optimism.

"Support for Israel has always been bipartisan. It's been there under Republican and Democratic presidents and Democratic-controlled Senates," said AIPAC's Israel director, Lenny Davis.

AIPAC's position was bolstered this week by reassurances that Jesse Helms, who is expected to be named chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee,



Senator Barbara Boxer with American students here; now she must stand up for the Democratic domestic agenda against the new conservative majority. (Sarit Uziel)

gave to Israel's ambassador in Washington, Itamar Rabinovich. Early this week, Helms gave Israeli officials a scare when he stated his intention to slash foreign aid, and referred to the Middle East in particular. By midweek, however, he had amended his stance, saying he considered Israel an "exception" to his proposed foreign aid cuts, because he believed it served US strategic interests and respected American democratic values.

"I would be worried right now if I were a Palestinian, an Egyptian or a Jordanian," said one pro-Israel lobbyist.

DESPITE HELMS' reassurances, Israeli government officials are already gearing themselves for pressure to give up aid, with some even floating the idea of voluntarily giving up the annual \$1.2 billion in economic aid.

Saul Singer, who was a Republican staffer on Capitol Hill for 10 years, says that if it seems inevitable that aid is going to be cut, it would be better for the initiative to come from Israel.

"The main problem with the US taking the initiative in cutting the aid would not be financial, but political. We don't want the US to send a signal that it doesn't support Israel," he said.

Even if Israel is spared cuts in its annual aid, Rabin still has much to fear from Helms' reluctance to spend money overseas. Should Helms tighten the US purse strings, Rabin could have trouble getting it to make special expenditures he considers essential to the peace process: for example, for the stationing of US

troops on the Golan Heights. Right-wingers here are encouraged by this. Yossi Ben-Aharon, an adviser to former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, is optimistic that Helms and the Republicans will take a tough line on the peace process, both for ideological reasons and because they do not want to pay the bills.

Ben-Aharon is part of a team of Likud-affiliated politicians who have been to Washington three times since the Declaration of Principles was signed with the Palestinians in 1993. They have been forging ties with members of Congress, particularly Republicans, and met with Helms' staff on three separate occasions.

Their aim was to convince US legislators to oppose any peace settlement with Syria that would involve sending US soldiers to

the Golan Heights. The reaction of the Republicans he lobbied "by and large was very positive," Ben-Aharon said. "The gut reaction of many Americans is that unless it is vitally necessary, there is no reason to deploy American soldiers. What made the biggest impression on them was our position that we should do our own job protecting the State of Israel, and that we should not ask Americans to spend money and send troops to do our job for us."

THE GOLAN Heights is the least of Boxer's worries right now. She must stand up for the Democratic domestic agenda against the new conservative majority. For example, she of course must resist the newly influential religious right that said it will bring before Congress

is the return of prayer to the public schools.

Jewish organizations like the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith are traditionally in the forefront of such battles, supporting the liberal position. This worries some Israelis. How, they ask, can Jewish organizations who want to lobby for Israel be effective when they are demonizing Jesse Helms over school prayer and immigration one day, and the next day going into his office and asking for his support on foreign aid?

"Any mix of the two issues - support for Israel and domestic issues - on the part of any Jewish organization is a mistake," warned Ben-Aharon. "For example, I believe the Anti-Defamation League and its recent onslaught against the extreme right and religious and fundamentalist right was so strong that it may now boomerang on them and on us. Those they attacked were very strong supporters of Israel."

"I think the whole business of attacking the Christian right is a mistake," agrees Singer. "I just don't think the Christian right is such a threat to Jews. I think numerically speaking the biggest pro-Israel bloc are religious Christians, particularly on the Jerusalem issue."

But Abraham Foxman, executive director of the ADL, says such criticism reflects a "simplistic understanding of American Jewry and the political process."

"The strong support for Israel which comes from evangelical sources is motivated by their theology and their own convictions and beliefs. It is not dependent on Jewish behavior or lack of behavior," Foxman says. "There is no quid pro quo, except maybe in Yossi Ben-Aharon's mind."

Dr. David Clayman, the Israel director of the American Jewish Congress, also vigorously defended the role of Jewish organizations in the battle against the religious right on church-state issues. American Jews cannot be expected to simply drop their convictions on domestic issues, he said.

Clayman notes it will not be the first time American Jews have had to argue Israel's case before political leaders they disagreed with on other issues.

"At the height of the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson said, 'How can you Jews want to send arms to Israel, when you won't support the shipment of arms to Vietnam?' That was very awkward. We got through that and we'll get through this."

For Iraqi opposition, words are more important than actions

Exiled Iraqi Kanan Makiya warns Israelis that deals with dictatorships will backfire, Steve Rodan reports



Iraqi dissident Makiya: Iraqis can't revolt against Saddam because they are too busy trying to stay alive. (Sarit Harni)

People have rights for no other reason than that they exist as individual human beings - Clause 1 of the opposition Iraq Foundation.

TO Westerners, the assertion is so ridiculously reasonable it seems hardly worth mentioning. For Kanan Makiya, implementing this axiom has been a lifelong dream.

Makiya is an exile from Iraq who wants to bring democracy to his society. He's a leader of the US-based Iraq Foundation as well as a key representative of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the transitional parliament based in northern Iraq which is the chief opposition group to Saddam Hussein's regime.

In Israel to attend a conference at the Hebrew University, Makiya seems to spend as much time battling pessimists who believe his country can never change, as Saddam's regime itself. Saddam's fortunes are plunging, he says, and the only thing that can save him is the perception in the West and Israel that he is invincible and therefore must have his pariah status lifted. Makiya is livid with those Israelis who support a dialogue with Baghdad.

"How we view this and talk about it will determine whether this opposition will succeed," he says in an interview.

Makiya, a fellow at Harvard University's Center for Middle East Studies, started chronicling the cruelty of Baghdad long before others did. In 1992, he convened the Human Rights Committee of the INC.

In 1991 he published *Republic of Fear*, a portrait of Saddam's regime; more recently he wrote *Cruelty and Silence*, published by Norton in the US, which bitterly attacks what he regards as the lack of courage of Arab intellectuals.

Makiya says Saddam is playing with a new deck of cards. His mock offensive against Kuwait has brought Russia and China to press

hard for the removal of UN sanctions. The UN Security Council on Monday rejected the lifting of sanctions.

Makiya, who opposes sanctions, doesn't expect the UN to make Saddam's life dramatically easier. But it's clearly better for his regime than two months ago, when there seemed to be no end in sight to UN sanctions.

"Saddam correctly assessed that sanctions were going to be renewed, so he had to do something to stir the pot," Makiya says. "And he succeeded. He saw Jimmy Carter going to Haiti to avoid a confrontation. He saw Clinton didn't have Bush's determination. He used that window."

FREEDOM FROM fear is the essential prerequisite for realizing the inherent dignity of the human person - ibid, Charter 91, Clause 2.

Makiya is convinced that Saddam is going to fall. He worries, however, whether the West - motivated by greed - will bolster Saddam's regime and prolong the suffering of the Iraqi people. Makiya says that after the death, over the last eight years, of more than 750,000 Iraqis - who were either executed by the regime or died in wars Saddam started - the nation

is in no shape to launch an uprising.

"You're dealing here with a population that cannot revolt because they are too busy trying to stay alive," he says.

Makiya says most Iraqis believe that Saddam remains in power because of the international community. George Bush drove the Iraqi army out of Kuwait in the Gulf war, but declined to throw Saddam out of Baghdad. UN sanctions have driven the Iraqi economy into the ground, but to the man on the street Saddam seems stronger than ever.

"The Iraqi population has become deeply convinced after the failure of the uprising that maybe the West wants Saddam to stay in power," Makiya says.

Makiya believes the Iraqi people are preparing for change. He is optimistic about a union between the Kurdish minority, which comprises more than four million of Iraq's 17 million people, and the liberal democratic opposition.

It's the only opposition, he says, that Saddam has failed to eliminate. The Iranian-backed Shiite movement has been decimated, with about half a million forced to flee to Iran and tens of thousands killed.

An army revolt seems unlikely, Makiya says. "The army is a force without a desire to take power," he says. "It has become depoliticized."

In contrast, Makiya says, the INC has been the most effective in penetrating Baghdad. More than 400 prominent Iraqi exiles, he says, have signed the charter that outlines a future democratic Iraq.

REBUILDING CIVIL society means elevating the principle of toleration into a new public norm soaring above all ideologies - ibid, Charter 91, Clause 3.

Makiya, a thin man with a soft, lilting voice, is angry at the so-called Iraqi lobby in the Israeli government. They include ministers such as Moshe Shabai and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer who, for the last year, according to government sources, have pressed for Israel to forge links with Saddam's regime as a means of either intensifying the peace process or using Baghdad as a foil for Iranian-inspired Islamic fundamentalism.

The lobby's assumption is that Israel will have to deal with dictators like Saddam if it wants to make the peace process work.

At a lecture given by Makiya to the James Shasha Institute for International Seminars, the Hebrew University's Abraham Sela wondered whether Arab opposition groups only end up making things worse in the Middle East.

"Opposition movements are based mostly in the West," Sela said. "On the ground, what we find in these Arab countries are the fundamentalists, who would not accept the norms that you are preaching. The ideological gap is enormous. I don't see how that can be bridged."

Later, in the interview, Makiya explains that his visit to Israel is aimed at battling that perception. He warns Israelis that making deals with dictatorships will backfire and harm the peace process.

"I think it's unbelievably shortsighted to think that Saddam represents any kind of shield for Israel against Islamic fundamentalists," he says. "For Israel to even adopt this position is to pander to the dictatorships in the Middle East exactly as the Arab governments do. It's cynical beyond belief."

Makiya emphasizes that the reports of an Israeli lobby in support of Saddam spread like wildfire inside Iraq and abroad among Iraqi opposition groups. He suggests that this reinforced the futility among the Iraqi people of trying to get rid of Saddam.

"I'm here because the idea that

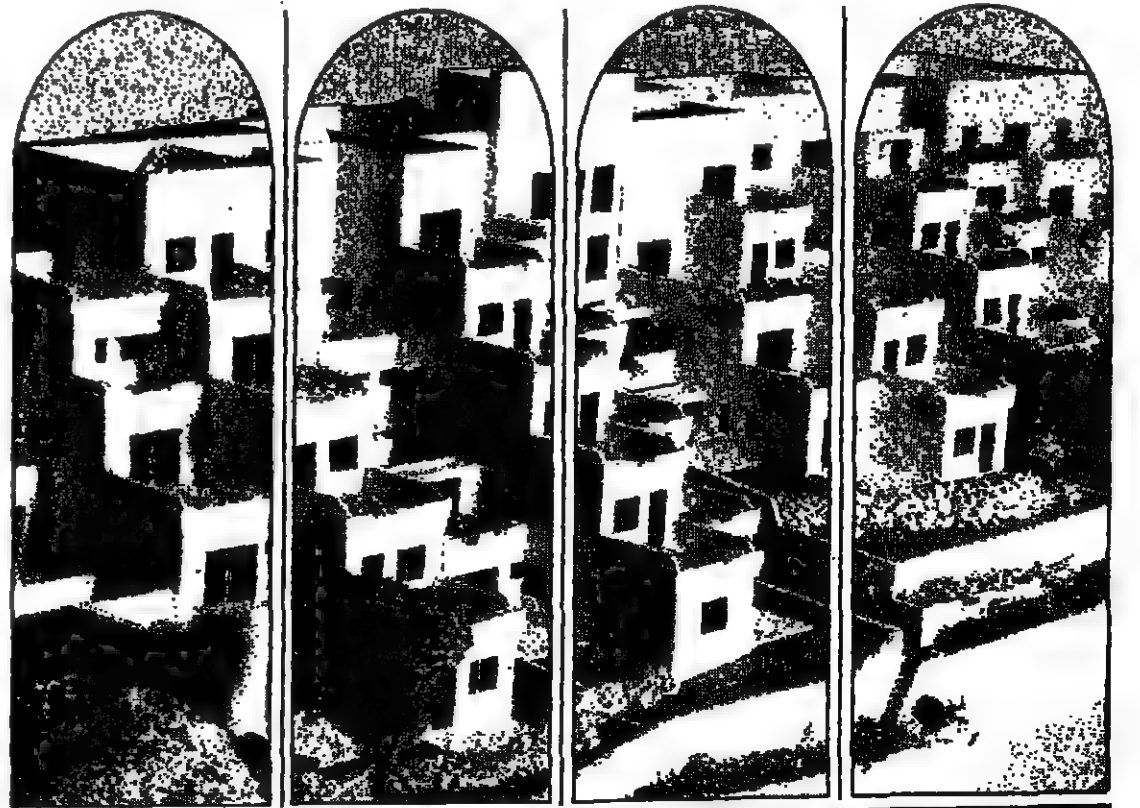
Israel should be involved with Iraq is mind-boggling," he adds. "It was a blow under the belt [to the democratic opposition]."

Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres have rejected any suggestion that Israel will break away from the US policy of isolating Iraq. Earlier this year, US officials expressed concern

that some Israelis, including elements in the Foreign Ministry, were trying to foster a back channel to Iraq.

Makiya rejects the view that the Rabin government should direct its peace message toward the secular Arab elite and refrain from encouraging democracy among its Arab neighbors.

"My advice is to inject a tiny bit of missionizing for democracy," Makiya says. "This hard-nosed type of politics [employed by Israeli officials] is contemptuous of Arabs. It's read that way by the Arabs themselves. It's an insult to Jewish tradition. It reinforces the very prejudice we're talking about."



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ETIMEN DANGER

'New Poland,' old prejudice

The Polish government wants to show Israelis a 'new Poland,' despite lingering antisemitism, Michal Yudelman reports

JOKES about Jews can still be heard in Poland, but that country's foreign minister does not take them seriously.

"There is a negative stereotype about the Jew in Poland which exists in jokes, in language and in legend," Andrzej Olechowski told visiting Israeli journalists.

"But I don't think it translates into real feelings. How can you hate something you don't know?"

An estimated 4,000 Poles officially define themselves as Jewish, according to the government.

Only about 369,000 Jews — 11 percent of the prewar population — survived the Holocaust, in which nearly 3 million were murdered.

During last month's first official visit by a delegation of Israeli journalists, authorities went to great lengths to demonstrate that Poland is more than the cemetery of the Jewish nation. The visit was organized by the Polish government to introduce Israelis to the "new Poland."

Olechowski summed up the ambivalent relations between Poles and Israelis.

"You [Israelis] see Poland as a tombstone, rather than a democratic state dealing with political and economic problems like any other country."

"You send your youth here by

the tens of thousands to tour the death camps, but nothing else. They have no idea what Poland really looks like. They don't meet Polish youth or get to know the Polish people."

The large groups of Israeli high-school students who visit Auschwitz and other concentration-camp sites are indeed a thorn in the government's side, Israeli Ambassador Gershon Zohar said.

"On the one hand, the Poles cannot refuse these visits. On the other hand, it bothers them that the Israelis don't tour other parts of Poland not related to the Holocaust. The Israeli youngster, as far as the Poles are concerned, comes to Poland to cry and then goes to Germany to have a good time."

"They [Poles] cannot understand how Israel has forgiven Germany, but hates Poland with a vengeance," Zohar said.

POLISH LEADERS emphasized that both Jewish and non-Jewish Poles suffered under the Nazi occupation. Most, however, remained unwilling to recognize that the two were unequal victims.

Again and again officials conjured up the image of the selfless, heroic Pole who, despite mortal danger to himself and his family, rescued his Jewish friends.



Graffiti reading 'Jews get out' appears on this Cracow billboard.

When one of the visiting journalists recalled his father's story of being cursed by Poles after emerging from Auschwitz, President Lech Walesa's bureau chief and special adviser on Jewish affairs, Andrzej Zakrzewski, countered with a reference to Jews who collaborated with the communists after World War II.

Postwar hopes for a different relationship between Poles and Jews were shattered by violent manifestations of antisemitism. These culminated in the July 4,

1946, pogrom in Kielce in which 42 Jews were murdered and 50 wounded.

Persistent antisemitism reached its peak in a virulent antisemitic campaign by the Polish government in 1968 which prompted the emigration of most of the country's remaining Jews.

Zakrzewski said Walesa is extremely sensitive to antisemitism and is making an effort to root it out. "not because of the Poles, but because of the Nazis, who chose Poland to build the Auschwitz

concentration camp on and perpetrate the biggest genocide in history. We are doing all we can to improve the atmosphere and to bring our two nations closer."

"After all, Jews and Poles have had a shared fate for 1,000 years, during which there were periods of wonderful cooperation and parallel development. We are aware that in a certain sense, we share the same roots. Notice how many of you have a Polish origin."

JACEK KURON, who is consid-

ering running for president against Walesa next year, said bluntly that "antisemitism is a Polish disease."

Kuron served a nine-year prison term for his underground activity in Solidarity before the movement was legalized. He wrote a book during that time trying to explain the reasons for antisemitism in Poland.

He is considered by many to be Jewish, he said, because "in prison I decided to say I was a Jew, to see how people reacted." The reactions and attitudes of his fellow

prisoners and their guards provided grist for his book.

Kuron, a former minister in Walesa's government and chairman of the parliamentary committee for ethnic minorities, is one of the most popular figures in Poland today. He tried to analyze the sources of continuing hostility toward Jews in Poland.

"The Poles who invaded the homes of deported Jews felt guilty about it, and Nazi propaganda actually helped them deal with this guilt. I lived through this period with open eyes and in full consciousness, and I am sick from it. I believe I will die still sick from it."

Despite lingering antisemitism, Poland is witnessing a revival of Jewish culture.

Poles — mainly the young — are suddenly displaying an ardent interest in Jewish music and art, and Jewish-culture festivals are all the rage.

"We are reclaiming our [Polish] heritage," said Konstanty Gebert, a senior editor at *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the largest-circulation daily in Poland. Its editor-in-chief is Adam Michnik, a founder and chief ideologist of Solidarity.

Cracow's Ariel Cafe — which is managed by an Israeli emigrant and owned by a Polish non-Jew — offers what is considered in Poland to be "Jewish cuisine."

An elderly silver-haired singer chanted Yiddish songs with a band of klezmerim. Neither the singer nor the musicians were Jewish.

Over jellied carp and kreplach, Janusz Makuch, the director of the biennial Jewish Culture Festival, spoke about his work.

The 34-year-old, non-Jewish Makuch, who has taken upon himself the role of guardian of Jewish heritage, said he feels like a chosen person.

"If not me, who? And if not now, when?" he said in Hebrew.

For many years, Makuch said, "the Jews and Poles had been like one body, one soul. When the Jews were torn from Polish soil, something was uprooted from Poland's culture and spirit."

The city 'Schindler's List' made famous

CRACOW, Poland's most beautiful city and its one-time capital, was the seat of kings and the home of a thriving Jewish community until 1939.

Dominated by the royal Wawel

Castle and the cathedral, Cracow's ancient Main Market Square is one of the most charming in Europe, surrounded on all sides by palaces and houses of the ancient patriciate.

The city's main attraction for

Jews is the famous Jewish Quarter. Before World War II, there were nine synagogues and 120 prayer rooms there. The buildings survived both the Nazis and the communists.

Cracow is where director Steven Spielberg, his cast and crew installed themselves in the spring of 1993 to film the Oscar-winning *Schindler's List*.

The movie put Cracow on the world tourism map, bringing in its wake waves of visitors who tour the city on *Schindler's trail*, along the movie's location sites: *Schindler's factory*; the Jewish

Ghetto; the Stara Boznica Synagogue, whose entire congregation was shot by the Nazis; and the local Gestapo headquarters.

The Ariel Cafe, at the entrance to the Jewish Quarter in the Kazimierz District, found itself at center stage, with shouting SS men, Jews near collapse from fatigue, Gestapo officers sprawled in limousines and a ragged crowd of onlookers.

Spielberg, the actors, cameramen and stage crews flocked to the cafe during breaks in filming. M.Y.

Warsaw: The Paris of Eastern Europe

POSTCOMMUNIST Poland has made dramatic progress in the past five years.

Warsaw's main boulevards are lined with stores and delicatessens stacked with goodies at free-market prices, which few Poles can afford on an average monthly wage of \$200 to \$300.

Still, people on the street, especially the women, are well groomed and dress with European chic.

High-fashion boutiques on Nowy Swiat Street offer the latest in clothes and shoes. The elegant cafes on the downtown street exude an old-world aura with their

delicate porcelain, exquisite pastries and pastries. It is not surprising that the city has been called the Paris of Eastern Europe.

Most of the action appears to take place in the nearby row of *budkes* (covered stalls) along the wide pavements, where prices are cheaper than on Nowy Swiat Street.

Poland is actively wooing foreign investors and the lobbies and casinos of its better-class hotels — luxurious by any standards — are filled with Western businesspeople, including Israelis. M.Y.

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Let Jerusalem be last

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

WE are making a grave philosophical and practical mistake by relating to the unfolding of historical events in our region with a stopwatch in our hands.

We want everything to happen now. But the brutal reality is that things take time. Rome was not built in a day; nor will complete and true peace in the Middle East come about within a month or a year.

Why can't we accept it? Well, partly it's the media. We watch everything happen so fast on the TV screen that we tend to lose sight of the fact that not everything can be resolved via satellite and faster than the speed of sound. Understandably, the random and horrifying terrorist acts that occur every week put pressure on us to act fast, as does the terrible poverty of the Palestinians, and the threatening and noisy rhetoric of extremists on both sides.

But we must learn to accept that, as much as we want to, we cannot solve these problems immediately. They have been with us for many decades. They will stay with us a while longer, and it's not the end of the world.

We should rejoice in the fact that progress is being made, and we should take a step back and look at the big picture, not at slogans.

The big picture is better than it has been for a long time. Let's face it: We picked a tough neighborhood in which to make our home. After 47 years, most of our neighbors are talking to us; many of them are even friendly. Pretty impressive for two years' work by this government.

That brings me to a related subject, one closest to my heart. Nowadays some people are saying that we have to immediately start negotiating about rights in Jerusalem. I believe precisely the opposite is true. Let time do its work first. Let the different parties become accustomed to one another, to the idea of peace, and to goodwill and tolerance.

Last week, I was in Cairo with a group of people involved with the Jerusalem Foundation, and we invited Osama el-Baz, the chief political adviser to President Mubarak, to speak before a relatively small circle. He said the Palestinians deserve to have rights in Jerusalem. (It was clear to me that he wasn't aware of the many rights we have already given the Arabs in the city, from education to choice of citizenship.)

But he also said he thought that in 10 years or more it would be easier to deal with the division of rights in Jerusalem, than under immediate pressure. I was encouraged to hear a major Arab political thinker express such a view.

The pressure for immediate solutions doesn't come only from Arabs, but also from Jewish factions that push to buy more houses in Arab neighborhoods.

Their approach is to take another inch here and another inch there. And I have always thought that this is a mistake. The argument that a Jew has the right to buy a house anywhere in the city and that the same applies to Arabs is true according to the law, but not in practice. In reality, Arabs are prevented from acquiring homes in the Jewish neighborhoods. So the statement about equal rights is, in fact, misleading.

Each house that Jewish settlers acquire in an Arab neighborhood will only make it harder for us later when we come to make the case for keeping Jerusalem united under our sovereignty. I think we have established our sovereignty well enough without using such methods, but rather by giving the Moslems and the Christians free access to their holy places and freedom of worship, as well as many other civic rights. Our priorities, as I see them, are to keep all of Jerusalem together and to retain all the rights that are necessary for the administration of our capital.

But I think we have to be far more forthcoming in enabling the Arabs to develop their own culture in the city. What has been done so far, on the whole, is very positive; but it is in danger of being destroyed by a small group of fanatics who seem to exercise some influence at City Hall.

What, then, will we gain with the passage of time? I believe in gradual processes. Every weekend I see hundreds of Arab children and their parents mixing with Israeli families in the parks, the playgrounds and the promenade. There are thousands of Arabs working in Israeli enterprises, belonging to the same unions and receiving the same wages as their Jewish fellow-workers. I think that if we can eventually make such things the general practice, the Arabs will feel at home here.

The independent neighborhood-management system (*minhalei*) which we started will also help bring about a feeling of calm and contentment and should be extended to more Arab neighborhoods. So, a few years from now, when the time is right, the Jerusalem question can come down to a measurement that can be negotiated and settled.

There is no point in doing this now. Rather than make statements, we should quietly and effectively improve living conditions in all parts of the city.

We still have a way to go, and maybe it will only be the next generation of politicians that will settle this issue. I have faith that it will not be an insurmountable task. I don't see anything wrong with Palestinians having their religious center in Jerusalem, while their political capital is somewhere else, perhaps in Ramallah, which is no further away from the center of Jerusalem than some of the capital's own neighborhoods. But this is only one of many possibilities.

UK weekly's blood libel

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

ONE of the more persistent themes of Arab propaganda is "Israel's persecution of Christians."

The charges are almost always identical: Christian Arabs in the Holy Land (who, with unbounded contempt for history, are often described as descendants of the first Christians) are not only religiously harassed but often killed by the Israelis who want to drive them out of the country.

That Christian Arabs have been leaving "the territories" is, of course, true. But their departure is due mostly to fear of Moslem fundamentalism and worsening economic conditions.

To suggest that Israel would deliberately create a situation in which all Arabs in Jerusalem and the territories would be Moslems is preposterous. (In Green Line Israel, the number of Christian Arabs has trebled since the establishment of the state.)

The most recent example of such propaganda, penned by William Dalrymple, appeared in the London weekly *The Spectator* of October 22. It begins with dramatic horror stories, which contain most of the article's charges against Israel.

First, a monk (Fr. Alexandros), whom Dalrymple meets in Greece, tells him that he had been forced to leave the West Bank after receiving death threats from "extreme Israeli zealots" who established a settlement nearby.

"Then one day in the winter of 1979," Dalrymple continues, "his spiritual father and distant neighbor, a Greek monk named Philomenos, was hacked to death in his cell at Jacob's Well; a settler had poisoned his dogs, attacked him with an axe, then incinerated the remains with a grenade. Shortly afterwards, Fr. Alexandros returned from a trip to Jerusalem to find his cave chapel desecrated and his books and possessions scattered and burned. The pulpit in the chapel had been axed into a hundred pieces. The hermit fled...."

Dalrymple then allows that Fr. Alexandros is, like many hermits, "deeply eccentric," but the cler-

ic's story, he says, checked out.

"At the Greek Orthodox patriarchate in the Old City I was shown a file full of reports and correspondence about the desecration of the cave of St. Chariton and the violent murder of Fr. Philomenos: I was even directed to the Martyrion at the Orthodox seminary on Mount Zion where Philomenos's shattered skull and cleaved bones lay on permanent display awaiting potential canonization...."

"Checking the incident in the more sober archives of the *Jerusalem Post*," Dalrymple continues, "I found that during the same period two Jerusalem churches and one Christian bookshop had been burned to the ground by ultra-orthodox Jewish fanatics, while students from a nearby yeshiva had committed serious vandalism at the Dormition abbey. There had also been a series of unsuccessful arson attacks on the Anglican church in West Jerusalem, two churches in Acre (a Greek Orthodox church in the Old City and a Protestant chapel in New Acre) and one other Anglican church in Ramleh. On top of this, two Russian nuns had been killed by a zealot in a knife attack on their Ein Karem nunnery, while the Christian cemetery on Mount Zion - already damaged during the years of Jordanian rule - had been further desecrated no fewer than eight times...."

"Had we been Jews and our churches been synagogues, desecration like this would have caused an international outcry," said the monk at the Martyrion. "Even the most indifferent reader would be shocked by such horrors. Only savages murder monks and nuns, desecrate holy places and threaten innocent men of the cloth. 'The Jews' and 'settlers' of the story are indeed despicable."

THERE IS little resemblance, however, between Dalrymple's story and the facts. There is no

record of a Fr. Alexandros in Israel, but a hermit who fits his description had to leave the country because residents of an Arab village complained of his sexually harassing young boys.

The monk Philomenos was indeed murdered, not by a fanatic "settler" (the current euphemism for villain), but by a deranged, newly religious Green Line Israeli who also killed a Tel Aviv abortionist and a Ramle fortune-teller, both Jewish, in the name of God. He is now in a mental institution.

There were two cases of arson, in 1973 and 1974, in which Jews, members of the Jewish Defense League (later the Kach movement), were implicated. The attacks were aimed at alleged missionary activity. Furniture and books were damaged, but nothing was burned to the ground.

Ten JDL members, mostly teenagers, were arrested. At least two served time. In apparent retaliation, a Jewish religious bookshop was torched.

In 1982, the chapel of a Jerusalem Baptist church was burned to the ground. This time neither the JDL nor any other Jewish organization claimed responsibility.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported that "Police said last night it was possible the chapel was burned by extremist Jews. However they did not rule out the possibility that a Moslem or a Christian arsonist started the fire to spoil relations between faiths in Jerusalem." Two men were arrested, one a Colombian tourist, the other a Jerusalem Jew. Both were released for lack of evidence.

All the other cases of attempted arson were minor acts of vandalism.

The most striking aspect of these occurrences was the Israeli reaction. Not only did the government and municipal authorities immediately pay for damage not covered by insurance; large sums from individuals and organizations poured into special bank ac-

counts opened for donations. The Jerusalem Rotary, for example, made a substantial contribution. The prime minister, mayor, chief rabbis and cabinet ministers all condemned the acts in the most outspoken terms. The 1982 arson was called by then-premier Menachem Begin "a malicious crime." Arab Baptists from Nazareth scrubbed the blackened walls of the chapel alongside their Jewish neighbors. The Sunday evening prayer meeting of the Baptist church following the fire was held in the neighboring Har El synagogue.

Dr. Robert Lindsey, the congregation's pastor, was quoted in the *Post* report. He spoke of "the tremendous outpouring of love and concern by Jewish neighbors and friends, and the many cheques which have been given for the rebuilding of the church."

BUT WHAT about those murdered nuns? They were killed by a Christian tourist, 29-year-old US citizen Alan Garrow, who described himself as a warlock. He, too, was confined to an asylum after boasting of his deed. (A letter to the editor refuting the story about the nuns from Helen Davis, director of the British-Israel Public Affairs Center, was published in *The Spectator* the following week.)

To state that Dalrymple's article amounts to a blood libel is to be charitable. Blood libels in the Middle Ages were usually propagated by ignorant, fearful people. Dalrymple knew the truth: He himself states that he used the *Post*'s archives as his source.

Nor is it surprising that the article was published in *The Spectator*. This is the weekly which recently ran an article about Hollywood Jews which, as *Jerusalem Post* reporter Tom Tugend put it (November 14), "revives the well-known stereotype of a 'cabal' of vulgar, clannish Jews dominating the American entertainment industry."

Nor should it be too surprising that the editor of this would-be neo-Nazi publication is Dominic Lawson, a Jew.

The enemy is us

Thy destroyers and wasters shall go forth from thee.

Isaiah 49:17

A man's worst enemies are those of his own house and family; And he who makes his law a curse. By his own law shall surely die. William Blake, "To the Jews"

ISAIAH'S declaration is part of a promise of the good future (time when, among other things, the Jewish people's internal enemies will be expelled from our midst).

Often, however, it has been popularly read as stating that the Jewish people's "destroyers and wasters will come" not from among the antisemites, but from our own midst. This is because so many of our worst enemies have indeed been, in William Blake's words, "those of [our] own house and family."

I don't mean only those driven by envy, greed and lust for power like Datan, Aviram and Korah during our Egyptian bondage and then in the wilderness.

Neither do I mean only the likes of the "renegades" of the Hanukkah story, who "incited the people, saying: 'Let us enter into a covenant with the gentiles round about because disaster after disaster has overtaken us since we segregated ourselves from them....'" (I Maccabees 1:10).

Nor do I mean only the ilk of General Tiberius Julius Alexander, nephew of Philo, the great Alexandrian Jewish philosopher and interpreter of Judaism. Among Tiberius' achievements recorded by his younger contemporary, Josephus, were his appointment by Emperor Vespasian to be Titus's second in command in the war against the Jews in Judea and Jerusalem, and his vote in favor of destroying the Temple.

(A recent epitome of sorts of Tiberius was Nazi Germany's Field Marshal Erhard Milch, the one man most directly responsible for the development of the Luftwaffe into the force it was in the early years of World War II and who was even Hitler's personal pilot for a while. He was a favorite of Air Minister Hermann Göring, and when people complained to Göring about his keeping "that Jew" among the Nazi military elite, he is said to have roared [in the words of Karl Lueger, Vienna's rabidly antisemitic mayor in Theodor Herzl's day], "I decide who is a Jew!") With thanks to Jerusalem historian Daniel Ben Yaakov and *The Third Reich Almanac* by Taylor and Shaw.)

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

Nor do I mean merely Josephus. Whatever self-serving treachery or opportunistic stratagems he may have perpetrated at Yodfat and in Rome, he at least left us what again and again has proven to be a largely reliable history. I don't even mean only the likes of those medieval Spanish royalty and churchmen, those German apostates, those Russian Bolsheviks, who thought to wash away the "shame" of their Jewish provenance with the blood of Jews.

Neither do I mean only the likes of Alfred Nossig, writer, musician and sculptor, pre-Herzlian exponent of political Zionism, supporter of Theodor Herzl and the Zionist movement. After the Germans occupied Poland in World War II and established the Warsaw Ghetto and its *Judenrat*, they ordered the chairman, Adam Czerniakow, to appoint Nossig to it. In 1943 the Jewish underground tried and convicted Nossig on charges of collaborating with the Germans and executed him.

I don't even mean the members of what the English-Jewish Zionist writer and activist Israel Zangwill called the League of Trembling Israelites. He no doubt had in mind such contemporaries and fellow countrymen like Edwin Montagu, a scion of a line of activists in both Jewish and general communal and political affairs.

Montagu was an ardent advocate of Indian independence, and as secretary of state for India in Lloyd George's government (1917-1922) was responsible for the Government of India Act that bestowed wide powers of self-government on the Indians. At the same time - rock-ribbed anti-Zionist that he was, like most of his immediate forebears and kin - he bitterly opposed the Balfour Declaration, and succeeded in getting it watered down. He resigned from the government in 1922 over what he considered a government slight to India's Moslems.

Montagu has had, and still has, Trembling Israelite counterparts in England and other countries, even here in Israel. Some have been or are in an equal position directly to harm our cause, some in a better position. Some - most - have harmed or are harming our cause more indirectly but no less seriously by burrowing away at our positions vis-à-vis governments, public opinion, and the

mass media, as well as at our self-esteem.

Their activity is no less harmful for engaging in it - as many of them think or claim - not out of hostility or for self-aggrandizement, but out of a fear of what they consider excessive Jewish/Israeli parochialism and a greater loyalty to what they consider universal values. They virtually fall in the class of what the British statesman Sir George Canning called the "steady patriot of the world alone." The friend of every country but his own ("The Jacobin").

It is these whom I have in mind, particularly our so-called "post-Zionist" novelists, poets, playwrights, journalists and "new historians." Perhaps - to take a charitable view of their motives - their devotion to what they define as the supreme, universal truth sometimes leads them to hypotheses that have no basis whatever in history or fact, and even to misrepresentations of historical fact - all for the sake of what they consider the healthful and necessary process of smashing icons, regardless of the truth of those icons.

One such recent notorious icon-smashing attempt was playwright Mordechai Lerner's treatment of Hannah Szenes in his play, *The Kasner Trial*. In the name of freedom of expression and without any basis whatever in fact, he speculated, through his Kasner character, that Szenes is not the heroine we have held her to be for the past half-century, but betrayed her comrades to the Nazi authorities.

Some of our "new historians" have recently been chipping away at another icon: They say, contrary to the accepted view of Jewish and non-Jewish historians and thinkers, that the Hasmonaeans weren't the first fighters in history for freedom of worship, but a band of parochial, ultra-Orthodox fanatics; if not for them, the Hellenic Syrian Seleucid rulers of Eretz Yisrael were willing to accommodate the Jews; the Hasmonaeans did not overcome forces that were superior to them in number and strength, but outnumbered the Seleucid forces sent against them.

Jews seeking the absolute, ultimate Truth and Righteousness and the ultimate Communion with the Divine ought to heed the Prophet Isaiah's admonition to remember their source (51:1). Then, one may hope, we will see the fulfillment of the above-mentioned promise of Isaiah 49:17.

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"THE MONUMENT ERECTED ON THE SITE WAS NAMED ORIENT HOUSE, TO HONOR THE BRAVE RESCUER. IT'S MUCH FREQUENTED BY PALESTINISMS AND SOON WILL BE FREED FROM THE HANDS OF THE INSOLENT JEWS, INSH'ALLAH!"



In search of a personal God

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

SHOULD one seek to find one's own God? Or is it enough to accept the God-idea handed down by parents and/or tradition?

Certainly, if the individual can develop his own unique contact with God, his Divine service will be genuine and spontaneous rather than mechanical and formal. But a search, after all, is fraught with pain and anguish. And what if the Almighty still remains elusive, even after a lengthy quest?

Over the past few weeks, and culminating with this week's portion of *Vayishlah*, we see that the underlying theme in Jacob's life is his search for God - his God, and not only the God of his father.

One might suggest reasons as to why, at least in Jacob's case, the mere acceptance of his father's God would have been difficult, if not impossible.

If Jacob had truly felt unloved, even rejected, by Isaac, it would have been problematic for him to connect with his father's God. And when his mother's play deceives his father, this only serves to intensify the anguish of separation from the patriarch that Jacob must have felt.

Indeed, Jacob's jealousy and guilt vis-à-vis Esau certainly got in the way of his ability to establish a meaningful relationship with the God of his father Isaac. And it is certainly the wrath of his brother Esau that forces the underlying purpose of Jacob's journey to be-

come a personal search for God.

The first episode recorded when he leaves home is the dream of the ascending and descending angels, in which God suddenly appears to Jacob. The words God chooses are telling: "I am the Lord, God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac...." (Gen. 28:13.) There is no mention of the God of Jacob.

How does Jacob respond when he awakes? "Surely God is in this place, and I didn't know." (Gen. 28:16.) The general understanding of this verse is that Jacob, not realizing that God is in this place, is taken by surprise. But the simple meaning of "lo yadati" is that Jacob does not yet know Him, his God. He knows what he must do to serve Him, and he knows what to say in order to pray to Him, but he has not yet experienced his own personal God.

We see this point underscored when, several verses later, Jacob makes his vow, which is usually understood to mean that if God will feed and clothe him, etc., then Jacob will accept the Lord as God. But perhaps we must place the emphasis on the word "if" that Jacob is saying: if God will only reveal Himself to me. He can then become my God.

For the next 20 years, Jacob lives with Laban's household. In

the process of raising a family, he loses sight of his larger vision. Not only does he not find his own God; he runs the risk of losing the God of his father. He must return to his father's land. The next time he makes an oath, it is on his departure from Laban (Gen. 31:42). But he still cannot speak of his own God, but only that of Abraham and Isaac.

Ultimately, Jacob understands that he cannot successfully find God without first facing Esau. He is frightened and wary. Our Torah portion opens with all the military and psychological precautions taken by Jacob to avoid a catastrophic revenge.

Because of what follows, it becomes clear that the wedge between Jacob and his God was Esau. Only after Jacob can successfully separate himself from Esau will he be able to confront his own God. On the night before he is scheduled to meet his brother in the flesh, the Torah records how Jacob wrestles an unidentified stranger - identified by our sages as the spirit of Esau - at the side of the Jakob and prevails.

Jacob receives the victory name

Israel from the stranger. At last he is able to declare the verse he has been waiting to utter his entire life. "And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, because I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (Gen. 32:31).

Until now Jacob has heard God speak and seen Him in dreams, but never before has he been privileged to experience the intimacy created by seeing Him with his own eyes. Having successfully wrestled with the stranger - exorcising the pain and guilt caused by his jealousy and deception of Esau - Jacob is finally rewarded by seeing God face to face. Apparently it was Esau, or the spiritual struggle he symbolized, that had previously stood in his way.

If what we've been describing is correct, we should now be presented with the God of Jacob. The text describes that Jacob "...came in peace [shalom] to the city of Shechem...." (Gen. 33:18). "Shalom" can also mean "whole." Jacob is finally "whole" spiritually. Having exorcised the demons of Esau, Jacob becomes complete, able to build an altar to his own God, indeed calling it "El Elohai Yisrael" - God, the God of Israel (Gen. 33:20). The circle is complete; the search for his own God is over.

Shabbat Shalom

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Tel Aviv firm treks down information superhighway

A Tel Aviv company proved an irresistible meal for a hungry — but friendly — billion-dollar US concern. Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

LESS than a year ago, the Tel Aviv-based NiceCom Ltd. had every reason to believe it was about to realize the traditional Israeli high-tech fairy tale.

The dream scenario goes something like this: A small company creates an innovative new technology, dazzles the international market, attracting private investors, eventually goes public in Tel Aviv or on Wall Street, grows and flourishes and lives happily ever after.

But this fall, NiceCom began to realize that it would have to adjust its fantasies to adapt to the new realities of the world of computer data networking. Instead of taking the route it planned, the company was snapped up by the Fortune 500 company 3Com, based in Santa Clara, California, which paid \$58.5 million to acquire the Israeli entity. Today, although NiceCom is retaining all of its 43 employees and remaining in its Shikun Dan offices, it is now a division of 3Com.

NiceCom was an attractive target for the US company because it had a pioneering technology called "asynchronous transfer mode" or ATM — which is expected to be the wave of the future in the field of high-speed data networking. Eric Benhamou, president and CEO of 3Com, explains that the decision to acquire NiceCom — instead of developing a relationship with it as a supplier or a partner — stems from the fierce competition that currently pervades the data networking industry.

Networking is the process by which computers and computer systems are linked together. Companies like 3Com are paving the way for the international information superhighway.

As customers build bigger and more powerful networks, they are looking for bigger companies with more depth, capable of integrating various kinds of technologies into their systems. This has



Eric Benhamou (left), a benevolent takeover mogul; Nahman Shelef had to scrap a carefully mapped-out plan for his company.



(Sivan Farag)

led to a recent spate of acquisitions, mergers and consolidations. While less than a year ago there were 10 companies worldwide in the networking business, now there are only two.

Practical applications of ATM are still undeveloped, but it is considered the wave of the future by networking experts.

Last spring, 3Com realized that acquiring the ability to provide ATM was a key strategic move.

"We don't think it will be a complete pervasive technology for a very, very long time," said Benhamou. "But in the minds of large customers, it is important. Today when you go to work on a very large network project with a Fortune 500 company, most of the time they will ask: What are your plans with

ATM? Can you take my network and make it grow and incorporate ATM into it? It has become a code word for the future."

Benhamou chose to acquire NiceCom over its ATM-developing competitors because of NiceCom's depth of organization, corporate culture and the quality and direction of its technology. NiceCom specializes in integration devices which can gradually bring ATM technology into existing systems.

Benhamou chose to buy NiceCom outright because it was the quickest path to offering ATM to customers. And in the networking business, time is critical. "These early procurements have a way of shaping the future of the industry," says Benhamou.

"We can't afford to not be there first

with all the important technologies."

When Nahman Shelef, head of NiceCom, met at his headquarters last week with Benhamou, the deal between their companies was so fresh that Shelef had to spend a few moments crossing out "NiceCom President" on his business card and handwriting "3Com Vice President" and general manager of the new division.

Shelef said that giving up on the dream of developing NiceCom as an independent entity was not easy. It meant scrapping a carefully mapped-out blueprint for the future.

That business plan had been to locate a larger US company which would sell and market their technology — temporarily. The revenue from these early sales would then sustain NiceCom while it

worked on building its own sales and marketing infrastructure which would eventually take over.

The toughest part of being acquired by 3Com was making the decision to change, making the switch in our head that we were not going to go through with our original plans," said Shelef.

Benny Levin, the president of Nice Systems, NiceCom's parent company and its principle shareholder, conducted the negotiations for the acquisition. He said that 3Com's good reputation for handling acquisitions was a key factor in the decision to go through with the sale.

"Other companies approached us, but it was very important to us to go with 3Com because of their past record of acquisition of companies. Integration of the companies into 3Com, and the cul-

ture of 3Com vis-a-vis the employees," Levin said.

NiceCom is expected to receive \$18-20 million for its 53 percent holding. Also enjoying an extremely healthy profit are the private placement investors who last January put \$5 million into NiceCom in exchange for a 25 percent stake in the company — the lead investors being Hapoalim Provident Funds and Mofet and Star venture capital funds. As a result of the 3Com sale, that \$5 million burgeoned to \$13 million in only nine months.

The 3Com acquisition has been viewed locally as an important vote of confidence in Israeli high tech, following several disappointing results that companies have suffered on world financial markets.

Benhamou said that some of the reservations within his company about purchasing NiceCom stemmed from these results.

"There was concern that the financial community would be skeptical of [the purchase] since most high-tech Israeli companies have not given substantial financial rewards to their investors. Israeli companies have distinguished themselves with great technology, great products, good people and so on, but not so much by superior financial returns."

He said 3Com management came to the conclusion that "in the past, Israeli companies which have not done well have had insufficient critical mass in the United States, particularly in the area of marketing and sales." In this deal such a drawback "simply would not apply, because marketing and sales are exactly what we bring to the equation. So we felt that most probably the financial community would look at this in the same way they would our other acquisitions."

Levin said the deal demonstrates "the different directions that the high-tech industry in Israel can go." Instead of struggling to match its competitors in developing a critical mass of marketing, sales and customer support overseas, all of which take a vast amount of capital outlay, he said, "this is another avenue: for high-tech Israeli companies to be acquired by larger companies from the US or elsewhere, and continue work in Israel under the umbrella of a larger American company. I think what 3Com is doing here is really a breakthrough. They are not opening a design center in Israel; they are opening a complete business unit here. I think it is a big change — particularly relative to what Intel and Motorola have done in Israel — and a big step in the development of the industry."

Anatomy of a successful CEO: A calm 'people-person'

ERIC Benhamou has been praised in California's high-tech mecca of Silicon Valley for possessing outstanding "people skills," in an industry where many managers tend to know a lot more about programming computers than motivating a work force.

"It's true that there's an assumption that if you are a CEO you are going to be very arrogant and insult people who disagree with you," laughs the calm, well-spoken 39-year-old president and chief executive officer of 3Com Corporation.

These skills are becoming ever more vital in an industry where large companies are constantly swallowing smaller ones and merging with comparably-sized

ones in order to stay ahead in the technology race. In such an environment, it is the job of top management to make sure that corporate cultures blend smoothly.

This isn't always easy — often the reason two companies get together in the first place is because they are different and are expected to complement each other. It's a CEO's job to make sure they don't kill each other instead.

"Managing diversity is the biggest difficulty of CEOs today," Benhamou maintains. "Heterogeneity breeds conflict; if it is not harnessed correctly."

Benhamou's skill at navigating through corporate cultures has a lot to do with his multicultural background. He was born into an intellectual Algerian Jewish fam-

ily — his father is a professor of languages — that moved to France in 1960.

Growing up in Paris, Benhamou knew he had a bent for business, writing his first business plan for a bicycle-parts concern when he was 13 years old. "It was never implemented. My friends chickened out."

Like many young men in France with high technical aptitude, he was encouraged to study engineering, though he had an artistic side as well. While a student, he acquired some unconventional vocational experience for a future executive, playing the violin and the guitar in the Paris metro.

He went to the US first to attend graduate school at Stanford. He then found himself in

Silicon Valley, which was a "revelation" to him. "There is no other mecca of entrepreneurs like it in the world," he said. Benhamou is now settled in California with his wife Ilana, who is Moroccan, and their two sons, Ori and Emmanuel.

Benhamou came to 3Com as part of Bridge Communications, a smaller networking company he co-founded and which 3Com purchased for \$200 million in 1987. Benhamou knows about difficult corporate integration from the inside: Bridge and 3Com had the classic difficulties of blending their corporate cultures: 3Com was more buttoned-down, while Bridge was more laid back. After holding senior management positions in engineering and opera-

tions, the young executive so impressed 3Com's leadership that he was appointed president in 1990.

Actually, it was not a particularly sought-after job at the time. 3Com was in deep trouble, perceived as having blundered in key strategic decisions.

Benhamou has been credited in the industry and the press for taking a company in disarray and firmly directing and methodically transforming it into a "one-stop shop" for all kinds of computer networking equipment. This year, he ushered 3Com into the Fortune 500. Its sales for the 1994 fiscal year reached \$827 million, nearly double sales of 1992: when Benhamou first took over, shares were trading at less than \$6; this past August they were close to \$70.

The decision to acquire Tel Aviv's NiceCom was not easy. Of the 10 companies working on ATM technology that 3Com considered for acquisition, NiceCom was the only one located outside the US. According to Benhamou, some of his staff were skittish about the purchase, concerned about the complexity of managing and maintaining communication with a division so far away.

"We debated a long time about whether the Israeli location would be a plus or a minus. In the end, we decided it would be a plus," Benhamou said. "We all felt it is important for us to be a global company. We already are and we felt this would take us to a new level. We also thought the Israeli location would allow us to have a

direct presence in the Middle East, to tap into the labor markets that exist in Israel, particularly for technical talents [for which] it has an excellent reputation."

It was easier for Benhamou to envision running a division in Israel than for the rest of the staff, because the territory was relatively familiar.

"I've been here often and I was less intimidated by the challenge. I know people here and know people who are doing business here. I needed and wanted my entire staff to come to this conclusion."

Democratic and people-friendly as Benhamou tries to be as a corporate leader, computer networking is a fast-moving business, and he smiles, "sometimes consensus just takes too long." A.K.

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Women near the top

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North
(Tzur)
AKJ863
KJ
K4
K73

West
Q10942
N62
H9652

East
75
974
Q1876
QJ4

South
(Porat)
AQ1053
AJ9532
AK

Tzur North East South
14 pass 20
pass 34 pass 40
pass 60 (all pass)

Opening lead: ♡2

THIS deal comes from the McConnell Teams, the Ladies' World Team Championship played in the US this past September.

A team of four Israeli women—Daniela Birman, Magri Tzur, Ruthie Porat and Ronnie Barr, all of Tel Aviv—reached the quarter-finals before losing a tough, close match to a five-handed American team—Judi Radin, Rosanne Pollock, Sue Picus, Marina Letizia and Jill Blanchard—which continued on to victory.

In this week's deal, Tzur and Porat, North and South, bid to six diamonds after a daring leap to slam by Tzur. Porat then had to overcome a five-zero trump break to make the contract.

After North opened one spade, South responded two diamonds, her longer red suit. She was planning to bid hearts twice thereafter, which would describe a 5-6 shape, but her partner thwarted her plan by jumping to three spades, to show a strong hand with a six-card spade suit. Porat bid four hearts, which is often played as a cuebid in support of opener's suit.

Tzur, however, avoided any confusion for the partnership by leaping directly to six diamonds. If her partner was cuebidding in support of spades, Tzur expected her to correct the slam to six spades.

But if her partner held a strong 6-4 or 6-5 in the red suits, six diamonds would be a good spot.

Porat, of course, was delighted to pass the six-diamond bid, and even had thoughts of bidding seven with all her fine controls.

West led the deuce of hearts, and when dummy came down, declarer was confident. Her plan was to cash the king of diamonds and lead a second diamond from dummy for a finesse through East. If the trumps divided 3-2, the slam was cold, even if the finesse lost. If they were 4-1 with four on her right, she would still succeed. But when West discarded on the first round of trumps, Porat was forced to take a second look.

With only one more trump in dummy, she could finesse only one time through East. She did so, putting in the nine, and then she set out to score 12 tricks by cashing highcards and ruffing in her hand.

She led the ace of clubs, a club to the king and ruffed a club in her hand. Next came a heart to dummy. Two top spades were cashed, two hearts discarded from her hand. The four-card end position was this:

North (dummy)
J863
—
—
—

West
Q10
8
10

East
—
9
Q108

South (Porat)
—
A
AJ5
—

Porat led a spade from dummy and could not be prevented from making three of the last four tricks. If East ruffed the spade, Porat could overruff with the jack and cash both red aces.

When East discarded on the spade, Porat was able to ruff low with the five of diamonds and lead the ace of hearts. East could ruff this, but she was forced to play a diamond away from her queen, allowing Porat to finesse for the last two tricks.



Lions once roamed parts of this land, but they were hunted to extinction by the Crusaders. Now, they can be found here only in zoos. (Richard Nowitz)

Extinct is forever

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE Jewish Scriptures mention lions about 100 times and in several contexts, but the only ones you'll find here are in captivity. That's because the Crusaders, who wrote in their journals of having sighted the animal, hunted them to extinction during their reign.

Over the centuries, the same happened to other mammals and species of birds and reptiles that lived here. Some disappeared so long ago that they are almost legendary; others died out within living memory.

The local strain of *Felis leo* existed in Iraq until the 19th century. Unlike others that prefer open prairie as a habitat, the local lions flourished especially along the Jordan and Euphrates rivers.

The Syrian bear (*Ursus arctos var. syriacus*), on the other hand, fared much better and managed to survive against great odds well into this century.

Henry Baker Tristram, an English naturalist who studied the natural history of this area in the last half of the 19th century, saw this magnificent animal along the Arbel near the Kinneret.

As late as 1945, a bear was killed near Homs, Syria. This large animal fed mostly on fruit, mushrooms, seeds and eggs, and was an enthusiastic seeker of honey.

These bears exist because, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, some were sent to England where the species has been preserved in zoos, particularly London's.

Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus: bardsalis* in Hebrew) held out longer than lions or bears. This swift-footed cat was still seen in

the Negev in the 1930s; cheetah skins were sold in the Beersheba market until the middle of World War II. About 25 years ago, a female with cubs was spotted in Jordan near Akaba; some zoologists suspect that the animal may not be extinct, and that a few may still be found in southern Jordan.

If you want to see the white oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*; *re'em* in Hebrew), you can do so only in a zoo or at the Hai-Bar Reserve in the Arava, near Yotvata, where they are being bred under strict protection.

This large ungulate with straight saber horns—an impressive member of the antelope family—was once found in all desert areas of the region. It was hunted to extinction here during World War I; the last of them in this region were killed in Jordan in the early 1950s by workers on the oil tap line.

The ones seen today in reserves and zoos were brought here from the US, where there is an active breeding program to save the remnants of the species.

Two species of local deer also disappeared in nature and are found only in zoos and reserves. The red deer (*Dama mesopotamica*; *yahmur* in Hebrew) and the Carmel deer (*Capreolus capreolus*; *ayal ha-carmel* in Hebrew) both disappeared early this century, mostly as a result of uncontrolled hunting. The animals were thought to exist only in private parks and in zoos in Europe until, in 1956, a herd of some 30 red deer were discovered in Iran. The herd was protected before the fall of the shah, but its current status is not known.

Strongest of the strong

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

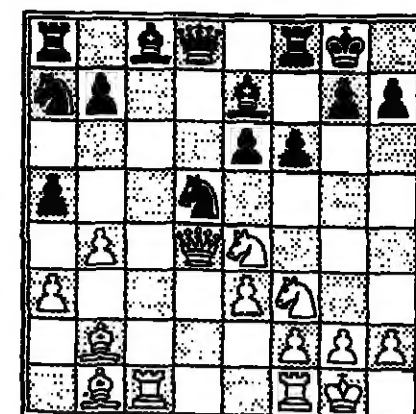
LEONID Yudashin was a clear first in the Israeli Championship with the excellent score of 9 out of 11. Several rounds from the end, he was still vying for the title with Lev Psakhis, but then outdistanced his rival by winning two endgames in which he was a pawn down.

Psakhis ultimately had to settle for a share of second with Boris Alterman and Alexander Huzman. The leading scores were a graphic demonstration of the strength of Israeli chess these days: 1st Yudashin, 9/11; 2nd-4th Psakhis, Alterman and Huzman, 7½/11; 5th-6th Ram Sofer and Ya'acov Zilberman, 7/11; 7th-11th Vadim Milov, Viktor Mikhalevsky, Mikhail Oratovsky, Ronen Lev and Emil Sutovsky, 6½/11; 12th-18th Yehuda Gruenfeld, Leonid Gofstein, Ilan Manor, Ofer Bruk, Maxim Urizky and Boris Maryasin, 6/9. Among the players on 50% were grandmasters Igor Khenkin and Gad Rechlis.

Yudashin's victory is not surprising: He has long been the top Israeli player, with Psakhis a close second. They are stronger than a large group of players of similar strength, including Ilya Smirin, Boris Alterman, Vadim Milov and Alon Greenfeld.

Congratulations also go to Ram Sofer, who scored his third Grandmaster norm and should have his title ratified soon. Dan Zoler, Yoav Lederer, Urizky and Maryasin registered international master norms.

The prize for the most beautiful game went to Huzman for the following magnificent effort against Lev.



24...Qf7 25.Bg6 Qg8 26.e4 Nb6 27.Rc7 Nd7 28.Rd1 axb4 29.axb4 Nb5 30.Rxd7 Bxd7 31.Rxd7 Ra2 32.Rxb7!

With the nice point that 32...Rxb2 is answered by 33.Qc1!

White is winning this position, given his three extra pawns and natural cooperation between queen and knight. Huzman makes light work of the technical phase.

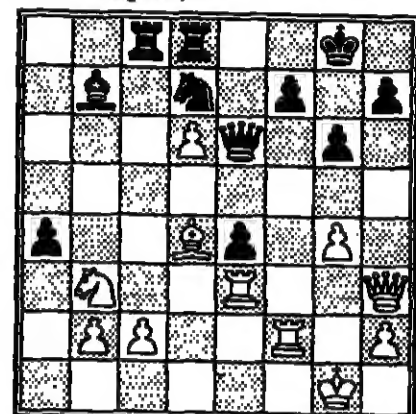
37...Rc7 38.Qb8 Rd7 39.Nf3 Kg7 40.e5 f5 41.Qe8 Rd1+ 42.Kg1 Kf7 43.Qb7+ Kg6 44.Qe6 Kf7 45.Qa7+ Kg6 46.Qa4! 1-0

Both the rook on d1 and 47.Qe8+ are threatened.

IN THE Israel women's championship, Ludmilla Tsefanskaya and Anna Segal both reached 7½ points out of 10 to share first place. They will play a match for the title.

The blitz tournament was won by Psakhis with 11½ points from the 14 games before Victor Mikhalevsky and Valery Beim on 11.

THIS WEEK'S problem is from another men's championship game, in which Uriel Zak, playing White, brings off a major upset against Igor Khenkin. White to play and win (see diagram).



Solution: White won with a standard mating pattern; 29.Qxh7+! Kxh7 30.Rh3+ after which Black resigned on account of 30...Kg8 31.Rh8 mate.

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Norwegian hiking and biking that is fit for a Viking

TRAVEL

DEBORAH HAJES

IT is impossible to appreciate the majestic mountains and fjords of western Norway from the inside of a train.

I realized this on my first day in the country.

I had just disembarked from an overnight ferry from Denmark, and was finding it unbearable to be cooped up again on the Oslo-Bergen train for what promised to be a good part of a beautiful day.

Too restless to sit down, I positioned myself by the exit doors between cars.

I must have been a quarter of the way to my destination when a tall, tanned Norwegian sporting a hefty daypack boarded the train, and we began talking.

The Viking's name was Agy (Aw-gee). He was a history teacher in Geilo, one of the stops on the Oslo-Bergen line. His wife and two children were vacationing in the southwestern part of the country, which reportedly has some wonderful beaches. He, however, was itching to do some hiking and rock-climbing farther north, plans I inadvertently convinced him to change.

I told him I was planning to take the train to Myrdal, a point on the mountain range high above the Sognefjord, and hike down to Flam, a tiny touristy town located at the base of the fjord.

He soon changed my plans. Flipping over several sheets of paper detailing train and ferry schedules, which the hotel receptionist in Copenhagen had painstakingly written out for me, Agy began to sketch out my new destination.

"Here," he said, pointing out the route with his pen. "The best thing to do is to get off a stop or two before Myrdal at a place called Finse. Then you can walk this way, past the hotel, the hut maintained by the DNT [Norwegian Mountain Touring Association], around the lake and over this bridge to a place where you can camp. That's only an hour and a half from the glacier. After that, you can bike down to Flam."

He thought for a moment. "You know what," he said. "I could go home, pick up my tent and some gear and meet you at Finse. I'll stay there overnight and in the morning we can take a hike up onto the glacier."

So it was decided. I had apparently picked the best time to visit the country. Norway was experiencing a heat wave which promised to continue for at least the next week.

The train stopped in Geilo, a valley town which hugged the banks of a white-water river. My new friend disappeared with a wave and a promise to meet me at the railway station in Finse at 8:30 that evening.

As it was, I barely had enough time to grab something to eat at a small chateau for skiers and backpackers run by the DNT, hike out of town past snowdrifts that still towered high above my head, and set up my tent behind the lake before sprinting back to the railway station several minutes late for our rendezvous.

FINSE — which consisted of the station, a hotel, a transit museum, the DNT "hut," and several tiny cabins scattered on the surrounding mountainsides — was not much of a town. But it was beautiful, surrounded by a virtual circle of white-peaked mountains reflected serenely on the lake.

Agy and I had been hiking for a few hours already when we climbed the final peak of the mountain from which we thought we might see the sun go down. I glanced at my watch. It was 11:30!

It was still light at 1 a.m. when we got back to the tents.

The sun burned me out of my tent at about 4 a.m. Agy told me the days are even longer in the north of the country, where the "midnight sun" does not bother to set at all, but instead travels in a circle around the horizon, dipping down in the early morning to just above the horizon line.

As we set off for the glacier, it looked like a great white mountain from the distance. When we approached its base, the large crevices in the blue ice at the front of the glacier became visible.

I had read all the warnings about hiking on glaciers. The pamphlets warned that they are very unpredictable because of the rivers that flow beneath the ice.

Inexperienced hikers can fall through what seems to be fairly solid snow into deep crevices caused by the expanding and cracking of the ice as the glacier moves slowly; and overhanging crests of ice have been known to fall on hikers, killing them instantly.

About seven hikers were already there. They sat in a semicircle listening intently as their guide explained the dangers of what they were about to do.

"He's probably telling them not to do what we're doing," Agy told

me. "It's safer for three or more people to go up together. In case something happens, there are more people to help."

Even though Agy had told me he had been on many glaciers and had taken several courses in glacier hiking, my heart began to pound as he took a harness out of his large red rucksack and helped me put it on.

The harness consisted of one large ring for my waist, and two smaller rings for my thighs which I stepped into, slid up and fastened. Agy donned a larger harness, then whipped out a rope about 100 meters long, which he fastened to metal rings at our waists.

"Keep the rope taut," he told me as he began to climb up the steep side of the glacier. I followed at a distance, stepping in his footsteps as I had been ordered to do and trying not to yank on the rope to keep myself from falling. Most glacier hikers wear spiked shoes but Agy told me that wasn't necessary. We were not going to

do anything too drastic. My Reeboks would be just fine.

It took us an eternity to make it up the side of the mountain. Halfway up, Agy lent me his ice pick so I could keep from sliding backward on the slick surface. He told me to walk close to one of the crevices, reeling me in on the rope and releasing me.

"The blue ice is the safest part of the glacier," he said. "It's the only place where you can actually see the crevices."

Finally, we reached a plateau. From there, we had a great view of the mountain range. The seven hikers had harnessed and tied themselves together and were heading up the front of the glacier. They looked like seven dots moving across the ice. Below us there was a large section of blue ice and crevices.

"We're going to stay down there," Agy said, making his way south. "That's the most interesting part of the glacier, anyway." The crevices ranged from small

and dull to deep and dangerous. At the base of one of them, water poured out, feeding a river which surrounded the base of the mountain like a moat.

Agy skied down the side of the glacier on his sneakers. Attached at the waist, I had no choice but to follow.

FOR THE second part of my trip, I was continuing on to Flam.

Agy, who was going to rock-climb with a friend, arranged to have my backpack and tent sent ahead by train, and helped me rent a mountain bike from the hotel.

"Head down that path until you get to Flam," he said, pointing to a dirt road just west of the hotel. "It's only 37 kilometers. You should make it by dark."

As an afterthought he mentioned the possibility of there being some snow on the bike path. "But it should only be a few hundred meters in all," he said. Agy was wrong. For the first 20

kilometers, there was almost as much snow to plow through as there was clear path. I met several Norwegian bikers along the way and we trudged along in soaked sneakers, mounting our bikes for 10 seconds at a time, before hopping off for the next patch of snow.

Within an hour, I was starving. When I mentioned this to two of my new companions, they instantly parked their bikes and unpacked a freshly baked loaf of whole-grain bread they had bought in Finse.

We sat on mossy rocks and dined on bread and water caught with wooden mugs from waterfalls which cascaded down on either side of us.

Although the waterfalls and rushing rivers along the route provide some of the world's freshest, cleanest water, my companions warned me not to drink water from a glacial source. This year has been designated a "lemming" year by Norwegians who carefully

monitor the migration of the tiny hamster-like creatures. About every four years, the lemmings follow their migratory instincts up onto the glaciers where they promptly freeze to death and rot, polluting the melted snow.

The water in the falls we were sitting alongside, my companions said, was perfectly safe for drinking. I took their word for it.

After that, every time I heard a high-pitched shrieking sound on the side of the road, I knew it was a lemming.

My friends told me the lemmings are terribly afraid of just about everything. "Sometimes, when you stare them, they'll just stand there for hours shrieking and shrieking," they said. "If you really scare them, they get so terrified they explode."

The sun had already set by the time we reached Hallingskeid. Having sent my tent ahead, I checked into a DNT mountain hut which straddled a slope just beneath the train tracks.

The chalet was made entirely of bright wood and was spotless. I soon found out why. All visitors are ordered to remove their shoes before entering. We hung our wet socks and soaked shoes in the "drying room" at the back of the hut, like a sauna for clothes. One Norwegian biker took up residence beside his wet clothes to warm up.

In the morning, the hut manager assigned us chores to help her clean up. The heart-shaped waffles she taught me to make was counted as work. I made a few batches and treated my friends to several helpings, each splattered with Norwegian jelly.

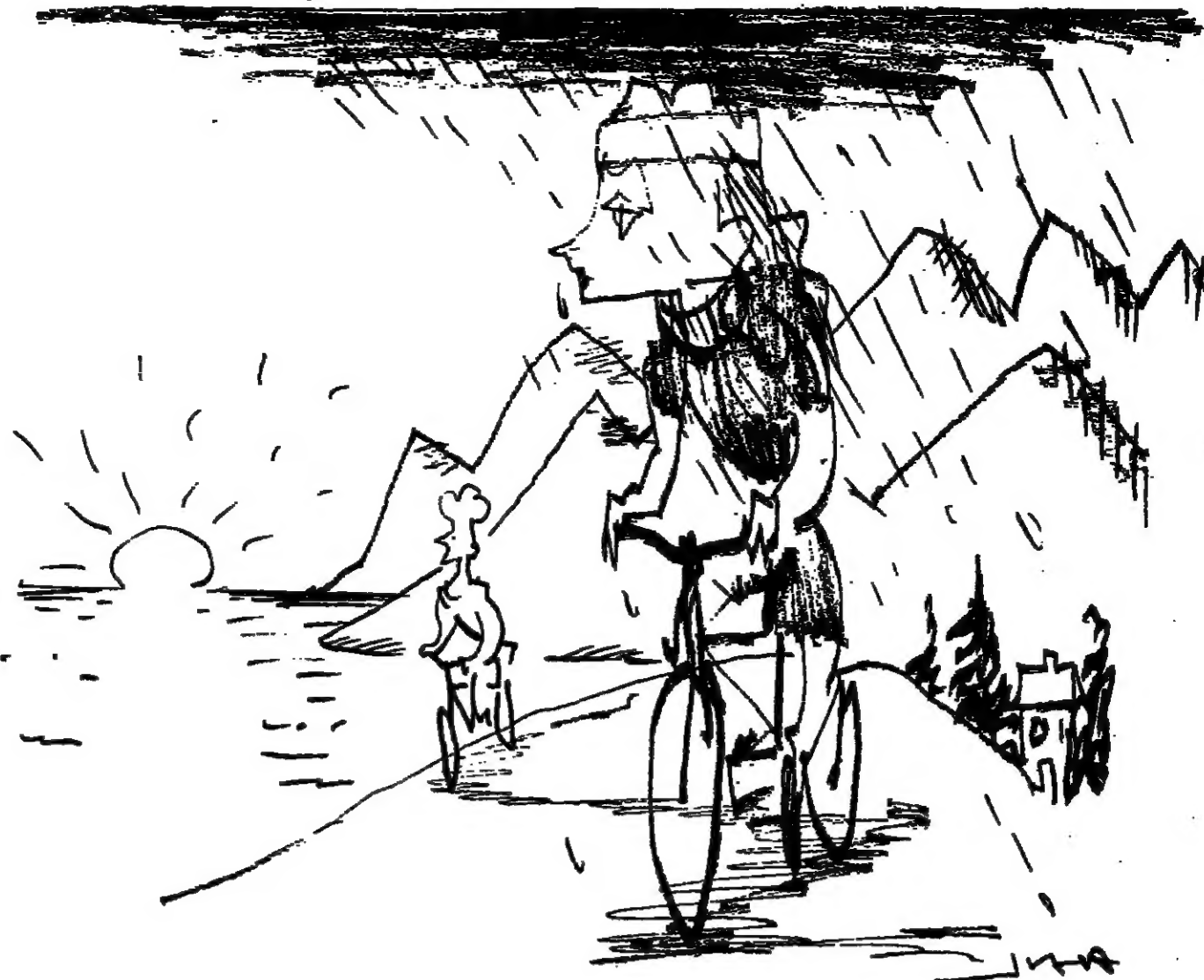
THE LAST leg of the journey was also the most beautiful. A popular Norwegian postcard describes Norway as the "land of the waterfalls," and there was no better place to see them than the route from Hallingskeid to Flam.

Along the entire 17 kilometers to the base of the fjord, we passed hundreds of waterfalls of varying size and splendor. Although beautiful, the route was also the steepest part of the trip.

My hands were sore for days afterwards because of the strain of constantly squeezing down on the hand brakes of my rented bike. And I was burned while hiking on the sun-reflecting surface of the glacier.

But it was worth it. That night, I set up camp on a stretch of grass a few hundred yards from the railway station at Flam.

Exhausted, but content, I slept dreamlessly by the edge of the Sognefjord.



The mad driver on the highway just might be a minister

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

SPEED limits were apparently not intended for government ministers. Talk-show host Gabi Gazit this week disclosed that the cars of several ministers had been videotaped at speeds way beyond the legal limit. Chief offender was Communications, Science and the Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni, whose car was caught traveling at 128 kilometers per hour with siren blaring. Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir were also in the fast

lane. Shouldn't the ministers be held responsible, even if they weren't in the cars at the time?

IS THERE a doctor in the house? Yes, there is at Beit Hanassi. President Ezer Weizman this week received an honorary doctorate in philosophy from the Weizmann Institute which was founded by his uncle and Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann.

UNLIKE THE majority of Israel's leaders who have yet to meet

South African President Nelson Mandela, Shitli Schwartzberg, Israel's entry in the Miss World contest, enjoyed a friendly conversation with the African leader whom she and other contestants met when they congregated in Pretoria this week.

ANNOUNCING THAT he had come from a no-confidence vote in the Knesset to demonstrate his own vote of confidence in the man of the hour, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was one of a long line of dignitaries, including President Weizman, who flocked to the Hebrew University's Rehovot campus to participate in the 80th birthday celebrations of hotelier, oil

explorer and industrialist Yekutiel Federmann.

What does one give a man who has almost everything? His family decided to donate \$300,000 to the Hebrew University to endow the country's first chair in hotel management in his name. Federmann, who received an honorary Ph.D. from the university in 1988, is a member of its board of governors, and his son Michael is its deputy chairman. The Federmann family founded the Dan Hotel chain.

POTLUCK DOESN'T please everyone, as the brunch hosted last week by Sarah Burns, wife of British Ambassador Andrew Burns, showed. Each guest brought a dish

typical of the traditional fare of her country. In deference to those of its members who observe the Jewish dietary laws, the Foreign Ministry Wives Association asked that no meat foods be introduced. But several of the guests objected. The compromise reached was that one buffet table was reserved for fish and dairy foods and another for meat, with the request that the latter contain no pork. One diplomat's wife was heard to remark that she couldn't understand why she was expected to consider the needs of those who keep kosher. When she and her husband were hosted by the IDF in Tiberias, she said, no one thought of offering them a nonkosher alternative.

USUALLY GARBED in quiet, conservative colors, Remma Weizman ventured into bright red for the state dinner for Austrian President Thomas Klestil — perhaps in deference to the color on the Austrian flag.

AMONG THE members of Klestil's delegation was Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg, chief rabbi of Vienna's Jewish Community, who attended the dedication ceremony of the Austrian-funded Jerusalem Teachers' Training Institute. Not wanting to be conspicuous in his hat, Eisenberg took it off and tossed it on top of the cabinet containing the fire extinguisher. Then, apparently concerned that the top of the cabinet might be dusty, he retrieved his hat and inspected the inside of the brim; obviously satisfied with the standard of cleanliness, he returned the hat to the top of the cabinet.

IDEOLOGICAL RATHER than personal reasons are said to be at the root of the resignation by MK Benny Begin from the chairmanship of the Likud information committee. His father might have found the ideological gap even wider.

RUMOR HAS been circulating about another resignation. Martin Weyl, the long-time managing director of the Israel Museum, is leaving for greener pastures, according to reports in the Hebrew press. Museum spokeswoman Rachel Schechter denies this emphatically, categorizing the reports as malicious gossip.

The only farewell party which the museum is planning, according to Schechter, is for Rose Fish, the devoted head of the museum's enviable organization of volunteers. Starting 20 years ago with a nucleus of 10 volunteers, Fish built up a body of over 200 highly trained volunteers who guide daily museum tours and perform many other tasks. Without them, Schechter says, the museum would not be able to function.

FORMERLY THE Foreign Ministry's chief of protocol, Mordechai Palzur was a pensioner for barely a month. Unable to stomach the quiet life after the hectic pace of meeting, greeting and escorting new envoys and visiting foreign dignitaries, Palzur responded with alacrity when approached by Shaul Eisenberg, director of the Eisenberg group of companies, to become involved in the group's international operations.

For Palzur, who is cultivating



Businessman and industrialist Yekutiel Federmann hits his 80th with a bang. (Sivan Farag)

overseas contacts while working on various international projects, it is almost but not quite like being back in the Foreign Ministry.

PRIOR TO his defeat in last year's municipal elections, Teddy Kollek was the longest-serving mayor in the country. But Kollek's 27-year record may be broken by a man close to 30 years his junior. Yitzhak Yemini, 54, who has headed the Pardessia local council in Samaria for 24 years, has won six consecutive elections and is confident he will win a seventh.

HOW DO government ministers ever find time to attend to their portfolios while running around to functions for official and unofficial visitors? Though the most publicized visitor over the past week was Austria's Klestil, he was only one of many foreign dignitaries here, who included Ukrainian Interior Minister Vladimir Radchenko; Mongolian Deputy Minister for Agriculture G. Surenjagat; Speaker of the Indian Parliament Shri Rajiv Patil; California Senator Barbara Boxer; Lynn McLeod, leader of Ontario's Liberal Party; and a Brazilian Senate delegation. Egyptian Economic and Foreign Trade Minister Mahmoud Mahamoud, who had been scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, canceled on Tuesday.

Local ministers, after returning from Casablanca, presumably have a heavy schedule of conferences and ceremonies. No wonder they look so tired when they sit in the Knesset plenum.

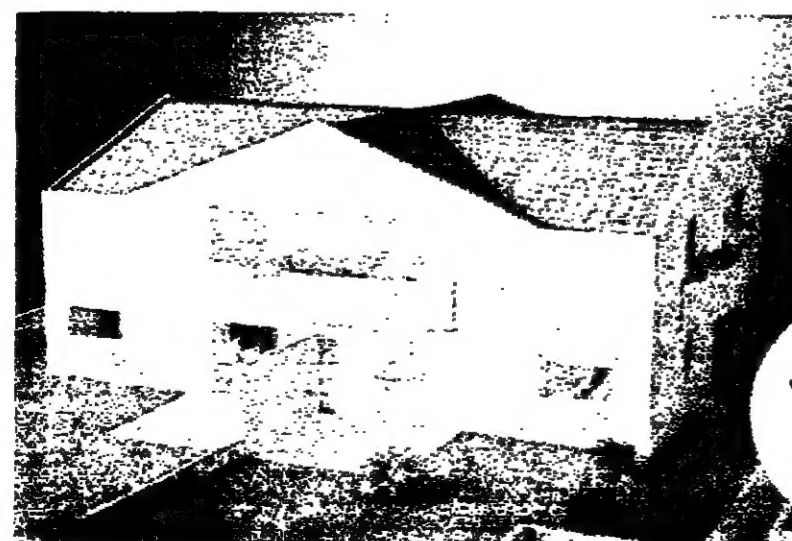
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